

FIVE MINUTE ANTIQUE SCHOOL-PENNSYLVANIA CHALKWARE

- Chalkware is an unfired pottery made of plaster of paris
- Chalkware is made of two half molds, glued together & painted with watercolor or oils
- Chalkware is hollow & was made in the 18th & 19th centuries,probably originating in Italy where religious figures have been found. It then migrated to Germany & the New World
- Most pieces have been found in the Pennsylvania German areas
- Chalkware was sold by peddlers in the 19th century & continued in popularity until the 1880's
- Chalkware is a true folk art. It's making required skill but no formal training. Forms of Chalkware are dogs,cats,squirrels,roosters,doves,parrots,sheep,& deer. Fruit or flower compotes are less common.

A later version of Chalkware was found in fairs & carnivals. They were solid not hollow & were usually cartoonish figures & animals. These were replaced in the 1960's by stuffed animals

- Pricing: Chalkware should be in the best original condition. No chips,breaks or mends. The more original paint the better. The most unusual forms with good color command the highest prices.

There are reproductions,but plaster cannot be aged and newer pieces are heavier in weight

- REFERENCES: The Interent

"The history of Chalkware" by Terri Deno & "American Chalkware or Plaster of Paris Figures"
The Antique Digest