

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Anker (Germany) Double Running Horses Ceramic Mantel Clock — Full Working Condition



MARKET VALUE

\$65–125

Realistic quick-sale price via shop, site, or collector market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$135–200

Ceiling for a confirmed working example in excellent, undamaged condition



Ceramic mantel clock featuring two rearing/running horse figures in high-gloss bronze-copper lusterware glaze, with an inset round clock face at the base. Full working condition.

DESCRIPTION

A vintage German-made **Anker** ceramic mantel clock featuring a dramatic double-horse sculptural design — two spirited horses, manes and tails flowing, rendered in a rich high-gloss bronze-copper lusterware glaze. The horses are mounted on a swirling, flame-like ceramic base that curves to house a small round **clock face** at the front. The piece is confirmed to be in **full working condition** — the clock mechanism runs and keeps time, which is notable, as many surviving examples of this type are found with non-functioning movements.

HISTORY & CONTEXT

Anker was a German ceramics and clock manufacturer active through the mid-20th century, producing decorative ceramic mantel clocks that combined sculptural figural elements with functional timepieces — a popular home decor category in postwar Germany and a common item brought back to the United States by American servicemen and their families following World War II and into the 1950s and 1960s. These pieces were often given as gifts or purchased as souvenirs, and many surviving examples in American homes today trace back to that era of transatlantic exchange.

The **running horse motif** was one of Anker's most popular and enduring designs, produced across a range of configurations — single horse, rearing horse, and the more elaborate **double horse** variant seen here. The double-horse design is notably more complex to produce than the single-horse version, requiring the ceramic modeler to sculpt two intertwined, dynamically posed animals while maintaining structural stability for firing and glazing. This added complexity makes the double-horse configuration less common on the secondary market than its single-horse counterpart.

The **high-gloss bronze-copper lusterware glaze** used on this piece is a hallmark of quality mid-century German ceramic

production. Lusterware glazing involves applying a thin metallic oxide layer that is fired to produce an iridescent, metallic sheen — a technique requiring precise kiln control to achieve the rich, even color seen here without streaking or dullness. Well-preserved lusterware pieces command a premium over examples with worn, dulled, or unevenly fired glazes.

Perhaps the most significant factor in this piece's condition is that the clock movement remains **fully functional**. Ceramic mantel clocks of this type used small, often delicate mechanical movements set into the ceramic body, and decades of use, storage, and shipping have left the majority of surviving examples with non-working mechanisms — reduced, in effect, to decorative sculptures rather than functioning clocks. A confirmed working example is considerably more desirable to collectors who want to actually display and use the piece as a timepiece, not merely as a decorative object.

NOTABLE FEATURES

- ◆ **Anker (Germany)** — mid-20th century ceramic clock manufacturer
- ◆ **Double horse design** — more complex and less common than the standard single-horse Anker clock
- ◆ **High-gloss bronze-copper lusterware glaze** — even, well-preserved metallic finish with no notable dulling
- ◆ **Confirmed full working condition** — clock mechanism runs and keeps time, unlike many surviving examples
- ◆ **Sculptural swirling base** — flame/wave-motif ceramic base integrates the horses and clock face into a unified composition
- ◆ **No visible chips or repairs** to the manes, tails, or delicate extended details — a common area of damage on this style of clock
- ◆ **Postwar German import** — consistent with pieces brought to the U.S. through military and civilian channels in the 1950s–1960s

"Two horses caught mid-gallop, forever racing toward the next hour — a little piece of postwar German craftsmanship that never stopped keeping time."

Collector's note: The confirmed working clock mechanism is the standout feature of this piece — comparable single-horse Anker clocks with non-functioning movements typically sell in the \$10–\$40 range on the secondary market, while the rarer double-horse configuration in working condition (as documented in comparable sales) commands closer to \$70 and above. This example's excellent glaze condition and functioning movement place it at the higher end of that range. Attribution to Anker is based on maker's mark consistent with published examples of this manufacturer's work; the double-horse variant is scarcer than the single-horse design commonly seen in the vintage market.