

If It Sounds Too Good to be True...

Recently on eBay there have been several high end items for sale with a “Buy It Now” feature at an insanely low price and free shipping. So far all of these items were listed by seller(s) in China with a zero feedback rating. Recent items listed included the 1950’s plastic baby rattles, a pretty lady insert glass jar, and a pair of 1980’s repro small tappers, each selling for about \$20. Here are several reasons why this must be a scam:

- 1) The pictures that accompany these listings were taken directly from the auction web page of other sellers of the authentic pieces, which were priced more appropriately, including both sold and unsold items.
- 2) It would seem unlikely that such rare Mr. Peanut items found their way to China.
- 3) There is no way a seller could sell such items so cheaply and still make money, when you consider the price of shipping to the USA, as well as eBay and PayPal fees.

For the item I purchased, I did not hear from my seller (eBay name fouda10238_7) for nearly a week after I had sent payment. When I contacted eBay, they quickly contacted the seller and issued me an immediate refund. I was never able to get in touch with the actual seller despite multiple emails. If eBay requires them to refund the sale price, I can’t see how this scam is making money, unless they depend on some people forgetting, or not bothering to complain about such a low priced item.

Special thanks to Peanut Pal Jan Gordon for spotting this trend and bringing it to my attention. I would like to hear from any other Peanut Pal who has bought something from this seller and actually received the item.