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Oliver Cromwell jug turns up on Antiques Roadshow and is worth £30,000

A LEATHER jug made from the skin of Oliver Cromwell's war horse has emerged after 350 years.

By Andrew Gregory

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A LEATHER jug made from the skin of Oliver Cromwell's war horse has emerged after 350 years.

The 2ft piece was taken on BBC's Antiques Roadshow where stunned expert John Foster valued it at £30,000 and described it as "the most exciting thing I've seen in years".

It was produced for Cromwell in 1653 out of the skin of his dead horse Blackjack. The jug, which marked Cromwell's status as Lord Protector after he overthrew Charles I, will be featured on the show tomorrow.

Paul Hoare, 40, whose dad Richard owns the tankard, took it to the experts and said: "My grandfather used to keep it on top of a spinet piano in his dining room. I don't think he used it. It was just for display. I remember seeing it whenever I

went to visit him for Sunday lunch but I was too young to realise the importance of it.”

Valuation specialist John told Paul, of Bere Regis, Dorset, that the jug was one of about 10 made from Blackjack. He also said during the show at Lulworth Castle in Dorset: “The great thing about this is Cromwell – one of the most controversial political and military figures in English history.”

He added the £30,000 it could fetch would be “good beer money”. The jug, which may now be sold at auction, was deposited at the C Hoare & Co bank in the late 1600s before passing to the family. The bank still exists.