

Finding your antique teddy bears

Teddy bear collection

Those who have the hobby of collecting teddy bears know how interesting this hobby can be. Those who collect teddy bears are called arctophilist. This term is coined from two Greek words, arcto and philos. Arcto means bear and philos means love. So it basically means lover of bears. If you ask these arctophilists or the teddy bear collectors how they began collecting these lovable dolls most of them would say that it was not a hobby that they planned to have. Often it starts with someone gifting them a teddy bear and they fall in love with their teddy bear and start buying these dolls wherever they see them.

Once their collection increases they are fascinated with their new found friends. They start looking for different types of teddy bears. Depending on the individual's tastes and interests, they will start collecting either a particular type or they may opt to have a mixed collection.

There are also books today to help the beginners. These books will have information about different types of teddy bears and about some of the collectible items. When it comes to collectible teddy bears they are not mass produced unlike the toys made for children. They are unique pieces made manually giving extra attention and care that is needed to make it a collectible. There are some famous brands such as Steiff teddy bears.

Often arctophiles end up spending a lot of money on their hobby. It can even become an addiction whereby they shop compulsively for teddy bears. Some of the rare teddy bears can be highly expensive. At the same time, if you are lucky you will be able to get your collection of teddy bears in flea markets, rummage sales and thrift shops. Sometimes you will be able to find some of the rare collections in these places which you cannot get easily in posh shops. You can also try clearance sales and discount sales to get your favorite teddy bears at a cheap price.

Those with sharp internet research skills manage to find a lot of rare teddy bears online. You can get your collectibles at online auctions and you will be able to find some rare collections at these auctions. Though teddy bear is the general name that is given to these dolls, each of them comes with a different name. You must be knowledgeable about these names so that your online research can be easy. A good reference book will be highly helpful for these beginners.

Some of the antique teddy bears can be highly expensive and they also have interesting history. There will be a heavy competition among the arctophilists to own these rare collectibles.

Teddy bear collection as a hobby can be a very interesting and a safe hobby. However, as we noted, it can be an expensive hobby as well. Once people around you know that you are an arctophile they will start bringing to you their teddy bears to add to your collection. This is a very infectious hobby that will interest even your friends and family members.

About the Author

Maureen Page is author of this article on [Steiff teddybears are very collectible collectibles](#). Find more information about [teddybears](#) here.

Source: <http://www.tntarticles.com>