

Chapter 1 : Teddy Bears Buying Guide

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Discover the History of Teddy Bears Discover the History of Teddy Bears The exact origin of the teddy bear is not certain, but there are two stories that seem to explain the creation of the teddy bear at around the same time. Michtom did not use a label for his jointed mohair plush bears, and this has made authenticating his bears much more difficult. The early Ideal bears are similar to Steiff bears, but have larger ears set low on the head and feet that are slightly pointed. The earliest buttons from to were embossed with an elephant; next followed a blank disc, from to ; and thereafter a stud stamped with the name "Steiff. Those that do come onto the market are usually from or later. Some bears even had embellishments such as electric eyes. The current wave of collecting started in the mids, when toymaker Margaret Hutchings published *Teddy Bears and How to Make Them* , which included a brief history of the toy. The two books gave legitimacy to teddy bear collecting brought closet arctophiles -- those who collect bears -- out into the open. Soon, the teddy bear became more than just a comforting toy for a child. It became a valuable collectible for adults. Merrythought teddy bears date from the s, and feature large round ears and joined claws. Chad Valley teddy bears: Chad Valley teddy bears , were first produced in the s. The earliest examples were made of soft, lush gold mohair and had cuddly limbs stuffed with silky fibers. It is also well-known for the bears it supplied to the famed Harrods department store in the s. Farnell bears usually have amber glass eyes and ears set at an angle. Novelty bears that played music and did tricks were the fashion during the s and s. Schuco , a German manufacturer, made bears that could dance, do somersaults, walk, and play with a ball. Boyds Bears is a popular brand that got its start in the s when founder G. Lowenthal quit his job at Bloomingdales and started an antiques business. Care Bears started as illustrations on greeting cards and morphed into real teddy bears in the s. Cherished Teddies are really figurines designed by Priscilla Hillman. You could choose vintage teddy bears , artist teddy bears , limited-edition teddy bears , teddy bears from particular regions, themed bears, or miniature bears. Some teddy bear collectors come to eBay to collect because of the investment. Countless fads have come and gone, but teddy bears continue to survive, perhaps because, of all the things you can collect, teddy bears are one of the few that you can hug. That alone is priceless. Collect with your heart, but be smart. Make sure your antique teddy bear is authentic. Even if most of the label on a teddy bear has worn away, you can compare what remains to pictures in books in order to identify your bear. Unlike most modern teddy bears, early teddy bears were designed to look like real bears, with a muscled hump between the shoulders. A bigger hump could indicate an older bear. Early teddy bears can be distinguished by their long, thin curved arms. The legs usually have narrow ankles ending in big feet, and the hips are wide. A long nose indicates an earlier bear. The long nose was meant to mimic the look of a real bear. A teddy bear with plastic eyes and synthetic footpads generally dates from the s and s. Early makers of bears used boot buttons or glass for eyes, and velvet or felt for the footpads. Most teddy bears made from about on have wooden disc joints that allow their limbs to move. The limbs of earlier teddy bears may be connected to the body with metal rods, but usually, those rods are only seen in low-quality teddy bears. An upper-end bear will have two arm joints, two leg joints, and a head joint, while other teddy bears often skip the head joint. Traditionally, the body was the last part of a teddy bear to be stuffed, and it was usually sewn up by hand. Most often, the hand-sewn seam runs down the back of the bear, but Steiff, Bing and Farnell bears all have seams in the front. To identify hand sewing, look at the quality of the stitching. Puckers may also indicate that the seam was finished by hand. Soft yet durable, mohair was the fabric of choice for most early bears. Made from goat hair, mohair feels like real hair. Bears made after may have silk plush fabric, while bears made in the s are often made of synthetics. The earliest bears are stuffed with wood shavings, called wood wool. In the s, other fibers, such as kapok and wool waste, began to be used for the body and limbs, but the heads were still made of wood wool. Felt pads are associated with high-quality bears. Lower-quality bears had pads made of brushed cotton. The Categories list on the left side of each page will help you narrow down your listings by item type. Search eBay listing titles

for specific words. For example, if you want to find a vintage Steiff bear, type "Steiff bear antique" without quotation marks into the Search box. Click "Search title and description" to expand your results. Know your purchase Carefully read the details in item listings. Figure delivery costs into your final price. If you spend a lot of money, make sure the seller will insure the item when it ships. Transactions conducted outside of eBay are not covered by eBay protection programs. Never pay for your eBay item using instant cash wire transfer services through Western Union or MoneyGram. These payment methods are unsafe when paying someone you do not know. Know your seller Research your seller so you feel positive and secure about every transaction. How many transactions have they completed? What percentage of positive responses do they have? What do buyers say in their Feedback? Did the seller receive praise? Most top eBay sellers operate like retail stores and have return policies. Do they offer a money-back guarantee? What are the terms and conditions? Buyer protection In the unlikely event that a problem arises during your transaction, eBay and PayPal are there for you. Pay safely with PayPal: PayPal enables you to pay without the seller ever seeing your bank account or credit card numbers.

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History[edit] A political cartoon in The Washington Post spawned the teddy bear name. The name teddy bear comes from former United States President Theodore Roosevelt , who was commonly known as "Teddy" though he loathed being referred to as such. There were several other hunters competing, and most of them had already killed an animal. They called Roosevelt to the site and suggested that he should shoot it. He refused to shoot the bear himself, deeming this unsportsmanlike, but instructed that the bear be killed to put it out of its misery, [5] [6] and it became the topic of a political cartoon by Clifford Berryman in The Washington Post on November 16, However, the story is disputed - Gunther Pfeiffer notes that it was only recorded in and says it is more likely that the 55 PB was not sufficiently durable to survive until the present day. Early teddy bears were made to look like real bears, with extended snouts and beady eyes. Teddy bears are also manufactured to represent different species of bear, such as polar bears and grizzly bears , as well as pandas. While early teddy bears were covered in tawny mohair fur, modern teddy bears are manufactured in a wide variety of commercially available fabrics , most commonly synthetic fur , but also velour , denim , cotton , satin , and canvas. Commercial[edit] Commercially made, mass-produced teddy bears are predominantly made as toys for children. These bears either have safety joints for attaching arms, legs, and heads, or else the joints are sewn and not articulated. They must have securely fastened eyes that do not pose a choking hazard for small children. These "plush" bears must meet a rigid standard of construction in order to be marketed to children in the United States and in the European Union. There are also companies, like Steiff, that sell handmade collectible bears that can be purchased in stores or over the Internet. The majority of teddy bears are manufactured in countries such as China and Indonesia. A few small, single-person producers in the United States make unique, non-mass-produced teddy bears. In the United Kingdom one small, traditional teddy bear company remains, Merrythought , which was established in Alpaca teddy bears are made from the pelt of an alpaca because the fiber is too soft to weave. In addition to mohair and alpaca, there is a huge selection of "plush" or synthetic fur made for the teddy bear market. Both these types of fur are commercially produced. Making of a teddy bear 1:

Chapter 3 : Teddy Bear Books - More

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He finally came up with a price that he was willing to pay, and she was obviously disappointed, explaining that she saw a similar one on the Antiques Road Show that was appraised at substantially more than the amount the dealer was quoting. You also must note that he may be quoting an auction value, a retail value or an insurance value. There could be a fairly wide spread from one category to the other. Typically the auction quote will be the lower figure, the retail price will be somewhere in the middle, and the insurance price is generally the highest. Our specialty has always been in the field of teddy bears, dolls and toys, but the information we offer can generally be applied to most any category. One of the first myths we need to look at is age. Many people are convinced that age is the primary factor in determining value. While it certainly can influence the price, it is not the biggest factor. I have seen collectibles from the Baby Boomer age ss command a substantially higher price than an early cast iron toy from the turn of the century. As always, it is a question of supply and demand. The limited number that remain may have already completed their collection or are no longer collecting. The Baby Boomer crowd are just coming of age where they have disposable income that allows them to invest in toys of their childhood. Most often the author will further state that the price can vary dramatically, depending on condition, desirability, geographic location, and fluctuations in the marketplace. Having written two price guides, I know just how difficult it is to come up with accurate information. At best, most price guides can simply give a range of values for a specific category, but be aware that that range can vary as much as several hundred percent! It can be an educational exercise to check several price guides to determine a value for a specific item, then go to the Internet and see what the same or similar item is being offered for by specialty dealers. Finally, go to eBay and check to see what prices that item has been selling for recently. The market does change, and sometimes rapidly. A much larger influence on price that is often overlooked is condition. I recall many years ago getting a phone call from a customer who wanted to know what her doll was worth. I tried to explain that it was virtually impossible to quote a realistic value without examining the doll. She was not about to give up, and so we asked several questions. She did not know the age or the maker, but stated emphatically that it was in mint condition. Their dog had taken a significant bite out of this doll! I then suggested that the doll probably had great sentimental value, but without seeing it we simply could not suggest a fair price for her to sell it for. Even without the trademark button, He can command a handsome price. The top three factors in our experience to determine a fair market value are: In our last price guide we did an entire section on how condition can affect the value. Mint condition is generally accepted to be an item that has never been played with and is just like it came from the store originally. It may still be in the original box, which can add significantly to the value. Good condition is an item that has had some use but shows no signs of wear. Fair condition will show some wear from play slight worn spots on a mohair teddy, for example minimal color fading, and perhaps some simple minor damage that can often be repaired by the purchaser. Old worn teddy bear. This well loved old timer still offers great charm, if not value. In our last price guide we attempted to assign a value scale based on condition. Starting at points, we suggested adding 25 points for an item never played with and I do mean never "right from the store. Add 50 points if it is in the original undamaged box. Now we start deducting points. In the case of a teddy bear, you can loose 5 or 10 points each for missing eyes, nose, small holes in pads, minor mohair loss, soiling, color fading " and the list goes on. Good professional repair could very well restore some or most of that lost value, but it will never achieve the value it had in original condition. If it is a minor situation, we most often will leave it as-is. An example is a delightful teddy bear we found that had lost his original eyes many years ago, and some kindly grandmother had replaced them with white buttons. The owner of the bear said she could never remember a time in her childhood when the bear had something other than those buttons. We felt it was part of his character, and they remain with him to this day. It is also worth asking for references from past customers. Some thoughts on buying. Unfortunately it is generally a once-in-a-lifetime experience, so it would be a

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mistake to assume that every yard sale has a treasure waiting for you. We do hit them on occasion, as well as estate sales and auctions. My late wife left me with a basement full of them. I am planning to remarry and I need to get rid of that junk! If you are prone to scan the goodies offered on eBay, be aware that there are words that should be forever banned such as: Too often the picture shown is of such poor quality that it is nearly impossible to tell what the item really looks like. That is not to say that you cannot find a good buy on eBay, but proceed with great caution. It is probably the number one outlet for reproductions, fakes and fantasy pieces. We have been collectors and dealers of juvenilia for over 50 years, and I can say that the best values that have come our way have been from fellow collectors who share our love. Attend the next show that features your favorite collectible. Better yet, sign up for a table to sell off what you no longer want. There is no better reward in this hobby than sharing your enthusiasm with a fellow collector.

Chapter 4 : Whats My Old Bear Worth - T Michaud BearsandBuds

join the thousands of collectors on the hunt for lovable teddy bears and their friends. a teddy bear expert and well-known author of 14 books on the subject, the author offers an all-new identification & price guide filled with many beguiling photographs, never before published ()

Chapter 5 : Teddy bear - Wikipedia

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Softcover, Hobby House Press, , pages, loads of information on the subject of bear collecting, very good.

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the teddy bear and friends price guide is in like new condition the pages are white and it is unmarked there is a price on the cover. contact this seller;

Chapter 8 : Boyds Bears " Easy Price Guide

4th Teddy Bear & Friends Price Guide. by Linda Mullins. by Hobby House Press. pages of colorful photos and ways to identify your teddy bears, rabbits, cats and critters.

Chapter 9 : Linda Mullins (Author of Creating Heirloom Teddy Bears)

The first teddy bear was a cuddly toy said to be inspired by a hunting trip made by President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt in Price Guide Listing for Teddy Bears.