

goebel hummel price guide

Goebel Hummel Price Guide: A Comprehensive Overview for Collectors

Goebel Hummel figurines have captivated collectors for decades with their charming depictions of children, animals, and pastoral scenes. These delightful porcelain figures, originally inspired by the artwork of Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel, offer a unique blend of artistry and nostalgia. As the market for collectibles continues to evolve, understanding the value of these figurines is essential for both seasoned collectors and newcomers alike. This article provides a detailed Goebel Hummel price guide, exploring the factors that influence pricing, key collectible pieces, and tips for buying and selling these beloved items.

Understanding Goebel Hummel Figurines

Goebel Hummel figurines are produced by the Goebel Company in Germany and are known for their high-quality craftsmanship and intricate detailing. The figures typically represent children engaged in various activities, often conveying innocence and joy. Since their introduction in the 1930s, these figurines have become highly sought after by collectors around the world.

History of Goebel Hummel

1. Origins: The origins of Hummel figurines can be traced back to Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel, a Bavarian nun and artist whose illustrations of children inspired the first figurines.
2. Production: Goebel began producing these figurines in 1934, and they quickly gained popularity, especially in the United States.
3. Evolution: Over the decades, the designs have evolved, with various artists contributing to the line, but the core themes of innocence and childhood remain.

Factors Influencing Goebel Hummel Prices

Pricing for Goebel Hummel figurines can vary significantly based on several factors. Understanding these factors will help collectors assess the value of their pieces or make informed purchasing decisions.

1. Rarity

- Limited Editions: Limited edition pieces or those produced for a short time tend to be more valuable.
- Retired Figurines: Once a figurine is retired, its availability decreases, often leading to increased prices.

2. Condition

- Mint Condition: Figurines in mint condition, free from chips, cracks, or repairs, command higher prices.
- Original Box: Having the original packaging can enhance the value, as it reflects the figurine's provenance.

3. Age

- Early Models: Older Hummel pieces, especially those produced before the 1970s, are generally more valuable.
- Marks and Stamps: The presence of specific Goebel marks or stamps can indicate the age and authenticity of a piece.

4. Popularity of Design

- Iconic Designs: Certain designs, such as "Merry Wanderer" or "School Boy," are particularly popular and may fetch higher prices.
- Seasonal and Themed Pieces: Seasonal figurines, such as Christmas Hummels, may also have fluctuating values based on demand.

Current Goebel Hummel Price Ranges

The pricing of Goebel Hummel figurines can span a wide range, depending on the factors discussed. Here are some general price ranges for different categories of Hummels:

1. Common Figurines

- Price Range: \$20 - \$100
- Examples: Figures that are widely available and produced in larger quantities.

2. Rare and Retired Figurines

- Price Range: \$100 - \$500
- Examples: Limited editions or retired pieces that are harder to find.

3. Vintage and Antique Pieces

- Price Range: \$500 - \$2,000+
- Examples: Early models or highly sought-after designs that are in excellent condition.

4. Auction and Specialty Sales

- Price Range: Varies significantly
- Notes: Some pieces can sell for several thousand dollars at auctions, especially if they are unique or in perfect condition.

Key Collectible Goebel Hummel Figurines

Certain Goebel Hummel figurines have become iconic among collectors. Here are some notable pieces that often appear in price guides:

1. The Merry Wanderer (Hum 152)

- Description: A charming figure of a young boy in traditional Bavarian attire, holding a walking stick.
- Value: Can range from \$150 to \$500 depending on condition and markings.

2. School Boy (Hum 54)

- Description: Depicts a young boy carrying a satchel and a book, embodying the spirit of education.
- Value: Generally valued between \$100 and \$300.

3. Apple Blossom (Hum 213)

- Description: Features a young girl with flowers, symbolizing beauty and innocence.
- Value: Prices can range from \$150 to \$400.

4. Little Gardener (Hum 91)

- Description: A delightful piece showing a child tending to flowers, representing a love for nature.
- Value: Typically valued at \$200 to \$600.

Tips for Buying and Selling Goebel Hummel Figurines

Whether you're looking to expand your collection or sell some pieces, here are some practical tips to consider:

1. Do Your Research

- Familiarize yourself with current market trends and pricing by consulting reputable price guides, online marketplaces, and collector forums.
- Keep an eye on auction sites to see what similar pieces are selling for.

2. Verify Authenticity

- Look for Goebel stamps or markings on the bottom of the figurines.
- Be cautious of reproductions, especially when purchasing high-value pieces.

3. Network with Other Collectors

- Join collector clubs, attend expos, or participate in online communities to connect with other Hummel enthusiasts.
- Networking can lead to valuable insights and potential buying or selling opportunities.

4. Consider Professional Appraisals

- If you own rare or valuable pieces, consider getting a professional appraisal to determine their worth.
- An appraisal can also help when insuring your collection.

5. Maintain Proper Care

- Keep figurines away from direct sunlight to prevent fading.
- Dust them regularly and avoid using harsh chemicals that could damage the surface.

Conclusion

The Goebel Hummel price guide serves as a valuable resource for collectors seeking to understand the market dynamics of these beloved figurines. By considering factors such as rarity, condition, age, and design popularity, collectors can make informed decisions about buying and selling. Whether you're an avid collector or just starting, the enchanting world of Goebel Hummel figurines offers a delightful journey into artistry and nostalgia, making it a worthy pursuit for anyone who appreciates the beauty of porcelain collectibles.

Frequently Asked Questions

What factors influence the price of Goebel Hummel figurines?

The price of Goebel Hummel figurines is influenced by factors such as rarity, condition, age, demand, and whether the item is part of a limited edition.

Where can I find a reliable Goebel Hummel price guide?

Reliable Goebel Hummel price guides can be found in collectible books, online databases, auction sites, and dedicated collector forums.

How can I determine the value of my Goebel Hummel figurine?

To determine the value of your Goebel Hummel figurine, you can compare it to prices in price guides, check recent auction results, and consult with appraisers or collectors.

Are there any online resources for Goebel Hummel price comparisons?

Yes, websites like eBay, WorthPoint, and specialized collector sites provide platforms for price comparisons and recent sales data for Goebel Hummel figurines.

What is the average price range for common Goebel Hummel figurines?

The average price range for common Goebel Hummel figurines is typically between \$20 to \$200, depending on condition and market demand.

How does the condition of a Goebel Hummel figurine affect its price?

The condition significantly affects the price; pieces that are in mint condition fetch higher prices, while those with chips, cracks, or repairs may see a substantial drop in value.

What is the impact of limited edition Goebel Hummel figurines on pricing?

Limited edition Goebel Hummel figurines usually command higher prices due to their scarcity and the interest from collectors, often leading to increased demand.

Are there any specific characteristics to look for in valuable Goebel Hummel figurines?

Valuable Goebel Hummel figurines often have specific characteristics such as unique mold numbers, older production marks, and special decorations or color variations.

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