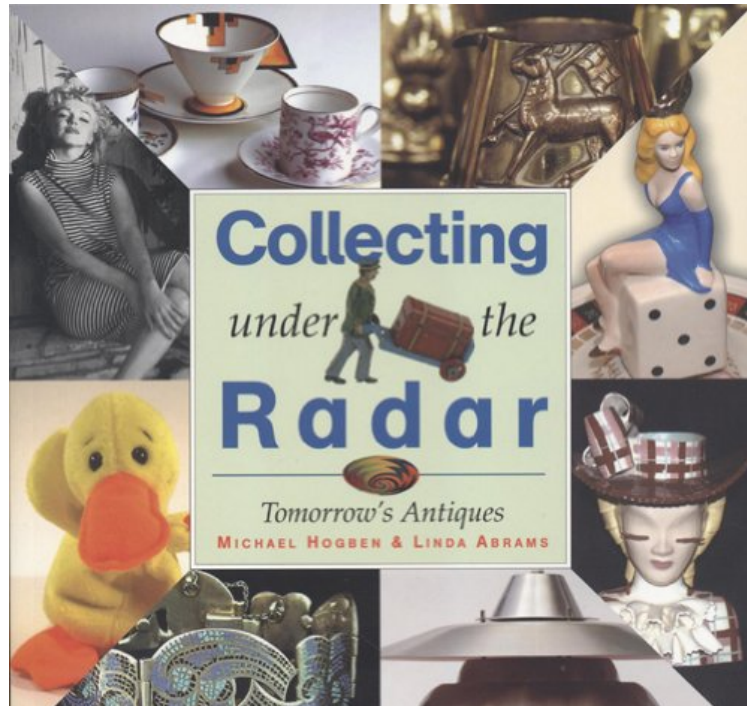


Collecting Under the Radar

Michael Hogben, Linda Abrams

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Michael Hogben, Linda Abrams : Collecting Under the Radar before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Collecting Under the Radar:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable reading, but a bit superficialBy Eileen E. FreemanAs a dedicated yard sale enthusiast and flea marketer, I read this book with great interest, hoping I would find valuable information about "up-and-coming" types of collectibles and antiques. It turns out that "Collecting under the Radar" is a different kind of book. Rather than delve deeply into just a few areas of collectibles, it provides only one or two pages about a large number of potentially valuable items. For this reason, the authors' information tends to just skim the surface. I was hoping for resources, both online and in different states, but few were provided, and those were the ones that "everybody" knows already. I disagreed with some of the categories they described, but after all, that's what makes horse races, and I am neither God's gift to collectors nor a seer with foreknowledge of the antiques market! Given that the book's purpose is to provide a little information about a lot of collecting categories, I was not surprised to find a number of factual errors. Most were trivial. However, those connected with the collecting of mounted--or "stuffed"--wildlife could lead a novice collector into legal woes if followed uncritically. For example, the authors state that taxidermists must be licensed, so as to minimize unprofessional work. However, some states--New Jersey, for one--do not require licensing of taxidermists, often leading to the illegal mounting of protected species, especially birds. For example, the mere possession of a single feather of the bald eagle, let alone a mounted specimen, is a serious federal crime, even if the bird was mounted long before the Bald Eagle Protection Act. (The same is true for the golden eagle.) Although the authors cite eagles as good subjects for collecting, they fail to go into the problems of

a collector who does not know her species. Despite these kinds of errors, "Collecting under the Radar" makes for a good read, especially if you have been collecting for some years already. Uncritically following their advice about what to collect, however, takes the fun out of collecting and increases the possibility of errors. Collect something that strikes your fancy and intrigues you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. INTERESTING INFORMATION By gif GREAT REFERENCE BOOK.. GREAT PHOTOS.. 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great photos and nice terminology but not a good "investment guide" to collectibles By Steve Ramm I've been a collector of many things over the years and found the pre-Ebay days a way to have fun at yard sales and flea markets. But Ebay changed all that. Now you see folks at garage sales checking out Ebay prices on their cell phones! The one thing that Ebay has done as provided collectors of nearly ANYTHING with a real value. That value is close to what someone ACTUALLY paid for an item on Ebay. Not the price it was offered at but what the buyer was willing to pay. The title of this book (co-authored by an auctioneer located in Britain and a US-based TV producer) is a bit misleading. While some of the collectibles they mention (vintage sunglasses and sugar crushers) are not in the top collectible categories, others like Lladro figurines and Gambling paraphernalia have been hot for a long time. The Lladro's are like Hummels and the company produces products directly for the collectibles market. (Think Franklin Mint). Very few people buy Lladro because it serves a purpose. It's because it is "collectible". I couldn't believe there was a page on Beanie Babies! Have you been to yard sales lately? They are next to the "Pogs" (remember them?). Do a "completed search" on Ebay for "Beanie Babies" and see what is selling. And that's what they are going for now. The authors do provide background on these collectibles but they also tell you what to expect to pay for them. Most categories are in the hundreds of dollars with others in the thousands. If you are looking for a book that will see in the future what is going to go up in value, I'm not sure this is the place. Nearly all the categories listed have long reached their peak. (Do you really think buying a used phone card now for \$25,00 will be a good investment 10 years from now when the next generation wonders what a phone card was? Personally, I don't. So look at the photos and learn a little about different categories of collectibles - that's where the book is useful - but I wouldn't put my savings into these categories - everyone else already has them. By the way, remember that any advice which is signed M.H. comes from Mr. Hogben, who is an expert on collectibles in the UK, not the US. As with art, collect what you like and don't plan to sell. If it goes up in value, fine, but don't plan on it. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic"

Last spring's outstanding new guide to tomorrow's antiques is now available in a classy paperback with flaps. This is the time to appreciate hidden value. Here, two experts clue us in to the stuff we have stashed in our basements or garages that may be worth more than you think. It's also indispensable to finding treasures in tag sales and secondhand shops. The well-organized reference brims with surprising prizes—from early snapshots or phone cards to bits of NASA booty—as well as important aesthetic and market pointers on every thing from Arts-and-Crafts tiles to Zulu telephone-wire baskets. Don't leave home for the flea market without it.

Some books immediately attract potential readers and buyers. Collecting under the Radar is such a book. The bonus, in addition to the appealing photos and an outstanding design tied to an uncluttered, understandable layout, comes from the choice and organization of the material and information presented. Given the authors' background, particularly Hogben's experience as a noted antiques appraiser and auctioneer, this book could have been weighty and all over the place. Instead, it's sort of whimsical, very colorful and fun, particularly in how the content is organized under Table of Contents' categories such as How We Wined and Dined, with photos and info arranged under neat headings as Items to look for and Top Tips. Or, with The Best of Whatever, entries of not widely written collectibles about such as American-made Damascus Knives, Phone Cards Early Cell Phones and Space Age Memorabilia. Such topics alone easily get one to open the book. Still, better-known collectibles such as Lladro Figurines, Carnival Glass, Fishing Lures and Bakelite are found. And there are surprises. Beanie Babies and McDonald's Toys are featured in Old Playthings along with the less derided Matchbox Cars, and information on the growing market of early digital watches under Still Looking Good. With its selection of collectibles and sharp design aesthetics, Collecting under the Radar can be enjoyed by non-collectors while offering a strong enticement for people to take up the hobby. The Foreword presents collecting information, under such topics as Damage and restoration and Spotting a fake, that's essential for the beginner and solid reminders for the pro. Here is a book that makes many other books on collectibles look ... well, kind of antique. --Discover Mid-America, May 2009 In this downbeat economy, most of us look for hidden value or want ways to accumulate savings. Here, two experts on collectibles clue us in to the stuff we have stashed away in our attics, basements, or garages that may be worth more than we think, if not today, then tomorrow. Michael Hogben and Linda Abrams are also indispensable guides to finding the hidden treasure at flea markets, tag sales and community auctions. Unlike other books that deal with antiques and memorabilia, this one tells us exactly how to find treasures in the trash and where. Among the authors' hundreds of recommendations: Grandma's old jet or bone buttons, Dad's fishing lures, Aunt Susan's old watering can. Lucky finds might also include a 1920's bureau, a 1960's aluminum bowl, a snakeskin wallet or matchbox car. From the Back Cover "Tricks of the trade to help you build your confidence and achieve success." --Bookworm "How to find a bargain and how to build up a collection before pieces hit the roof on

items ranging from McDonald's toys to phone cards, from vintage handbags to novelty salt and pepper shakers. Great read for collectors or anyone who wants to start a collection." --Bookbasket "An inside look at what really happens at auctions and antique fairs." --Antiques and Collectables "Innovative suggestions (such as Scandinavian glassware and Swatch watches) are eclectic and demonstrate a keen appreciation of what will be valuable in the future. Tips include key items to look for and how much to pay. This usefully-illustrated reference is ideal for new collectors." --Antiques Magazine