

royal doulton figurines price guide

Royal Doulton figurines price guide offers collectors and enthusiasts a valuable resource for understanding the worth of these exquisite porcelain pieces. Known for their craftsmanship and artistic designs, Royal Doulton figurines have captured the hearts of collectors around the world since their inception in the early 20th century. This article will explore the history of Royal Doulton, the factors influencing the prices of their figurines, and provide a comprehensive guide to help you navigate the market.

History of Royal Doulton

Royal Doulton was established in 1815 in Lambeth, London, by Henry Doulton and his partners. Initially focusing on stoneware, the company expanded its repertoire to include fine china in the late 19th century. The introduction of figurines in 1913 marked a significant turning point for the brand, with the "Character" series becoming particularly popular. Over the decades, Royal Doulton has produced thousands of unique figurines, each with its own distinct style and charm.

Key Milestones in Royal Doulton's History

1. 1913 - Launch of the Character series, which featured iconic characters from literature, theatre, and society.
2. 1920s - Expansion into Art Deco designs, reflecting the cultural trends of the time.
3. 1950s-1960s - Introduction of the "Pretty Ladies" series, which emphasized elegance and beauty, appealing to a wide audience.
4. 1980s - The company began focusing on limited editions, increasing the exclusivity of certain figurines.
5. 2005 - Royal Doulton was acquired by the Waterford Wedgwood Group, further solidifying its place in the luxury market.

Factors Influencing Royal Doulton Figurine Prices

When it comes to pricing Royal Doulton figurines, several factors come into play. Understanding these elements can help collectors make informed decisions when buying, selling, or appraising figurines.

1. Rarity

- Limited Editions: Figurines produced in limited quantities often command higher prices due to their scarcity.
- Retired Pieces: Once a figurine is retired, its value generally increases as collectors seek to complete their collections.

2. Condition

- Mint Condition: Figurines that are in perfect condition with no chips, cracks, or repairs will fetch the highest prices.
- Original Packaging: Having the original box and paperwork can significantly enhance a figurine's value.

3. Age

- Antique Status: Older figurines, particularly those made before the 1950s, are often more valuable due to their historical significance.
- Artistic Evolution: Certain styles or techniques used in older pieces may be more desirable to collectors.

4. Popularity and Demand

- Iconic Series: Figurines from well-known series, such as the "Pretty Ladies" or "Character" series, often have a dedicated following, affecting their market value.
- Cultural Trends: Changes in consumer preferences can influence which figurines are in demand at any given time.

Identifying Royal Doulton Figurines

To effectively navigate the Royal Doulton figurine market, it's essential to be able to identify and evaluate specific pieces. Here are some tips for identifying Royal Doulton figurines:

1. Markings

- Backstamp: Most Royal Doulton figurines bear a unique backstamp, which often includes the company's logo, the name of the figurine, and the year of production.

- Artist Signature: Some figurines may also feature the signature of the artist, adding to their provenance.

2. Model Numbers

- Each figurine comes with a model number, which can be used to research its history and current market value.
- Online databases and collector guides often include model numbers, making it easier to identify and appraise pieces.

3. Design Features

- Style and Form: Familiarize yourself with the different styles and forms of Royal Doulton figurines, such as the "Bunnykins" series or the "Dame" figurines.
- Materials: Royal Doulton figurines are primarily made of bone china, which can help distinguish them from other porcelain brands.

Royal Doulton Figurine Price Guide

Understanding the approximate value of Royal Doulton figurines can be helpful when starting or adding to a collection. Below is a general price guide based on various categories of figurines:

1. Character Figurines

- Low-End: \$20 - \$50 (common characters or those in less-than-perfect condition)
- Mid-Range: \$50 - \$200 (popular characters or those in excellent condition)
- High-End: \$200 - \$500+ (rare characters or limited editions)

2. Pretty Ladies Series

- Low-End: \$30 - \$70 (recently produced or less desirable figures)
- Mid-Range: \$70 - \$300 (popular styles or limited editions)
- High-End: \$300 - \$1,000+ (rare or highly sought-after pieces)

3. Bunnykins Series

- Low-End: \$15 - \$50 (common designs)
- Mid-Range: \$50 - \$150 (popular or retired models)
- High-End: \$150 - \$500+ (limited editions or rare designs)

4. Antique and Vintage Figurines

- General Range: \$100 - \$5,000+ (depending on rarity, condition, and demand)

Where to Buy and Sell Royal Doulton Figurines

For collectors looking to expand their collections or sell their figurines, various platforms are available.

1. Online Marketplaces

- eBay: A popular choice for buying and selling figurines with a wide range of listings.
- Etsy: Ideal for vintage and handmade items, including collectible figurines.
- Facebook Marketplace: A local option for buying and selling figurines within your community.

2. Auction Houses

- Specialized Auction Houses: Look for auction houses that focus on collectibles and antiques, as they may have dedicated events for Royal Doulton figurines.
- Online Auctions: Websites like Bonhams and Sotheby's often feature high-value collections.

3. Collectors' Shows and Fairs

- Local Collector Shows: Attend shows in your area to connect with other collectors and dealers.
- National Fairs: Major events often feature vendors specializing in Royal Doulton figurines.

4. Antique Shops and Thrift Stores

- Local Antique Shops: These shops may carry Royal Doulton pieces, often at competitive prices.
- Thrift Stores: Occasionally, you may find hidden gems at thrift stores or estate sales.

Conclusion

A Royal Doulton figurines price guide serves as a valuable tool for collectors, helping them navigate the world of these artistic porcelain creations. By understanding the history, the factors influencing prices, and the various categories of figurines, enthusiasts can make informed decisions. Whether you are a seasoned collector or just starting, appreciating the artistry and craftsmanship of Royal Doulton figurines can be a rewarding journey. Happy collecting!

Frequently Asked Questions

What factors influence the price of Royal Doulton figurines?

The price of Royal Doulton figurines is influenced by factors such as age, rarity, condition, and demand, as well as specific features like limited editions or special artist signatures.

Where can I find a reliable price guide for Royal Doulton figurines?

Reliable price guides for Royal Doulton figurines can be found in specialized collectible books, online auction sites, and dedicated collector forums, as well as websites like eBay or antique price databases.

Are Royal Doulton figurines still being produced?

Yes, Royal Doulton still produces new figurines, but the vintage and retired pieces tend to hold more value in the collector's market.

How can I determine the value of my Royal Doulton figurine?

To determine the value, you can compare your figurine to recent sales of similar items, consult price guides, and consider getting a professional appraisal.

What is the most valuable Royal Doulton figurine to date?

One of the most valuable Royal Doulton figurines is the 'The Old Balloon Seller' which can fetch prices upwards of several thousand dollars, especially if in excellent condition.

How does the condition of a Royal Doulton figurine affect its price?

The condition is critical; figurines in mint condition with no chips or repairs will command higher prices than those that are damaged or show signs of wear.

Are there specific Royal Doulton series that are worth more?

Yes, series such as the 'Pretty Ladies' and 'The Character Series' are often more sought after and can be worth significantly more than other lines.

What should I consider when buying Royal Doulton figurines as an investment?

Consider rarity, historical significance, market trends, and condition, as well as ensuring that you purchase from reputable dealers to avoid counterfeits.

Where can I sell my Royal Doulton figurines for the best price?

You can sell Royal Doulton figurines for the best price through online auction sites, collectible fairs, specialized antique shops, or by seeking out collectors through social media groups.

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