



# Collector's Corner



## Oh, Those Beautiful Dolls

(NAPSA)—Doll collecting, the second largest hobby in the United States, can be child's play if you know how.

To help, the makers of the world famous Barbie doll have come up with a few simple tips to get you started:

- Become knowledgeable about your hobby. Start reading books and magazines about doll collecting. Visit Web sites, such as [www.barbiecollectibles.com](http://www.barbiecollectibles.com), to learn more about dolls you'd like to include in your collection, how to care for them, collector's terminology and edition classifications. Answers to some of the most frequently asked doll collecting questions also can be found on various collecting Web sites. [About.com](http://About.com) ([www.collectdolls.about.com](http://www.collectdolls.about.com)) is another great place to begin your search for additional doll collecting information.

- Trust your own judgment. Collect dolls and themes that appeal to you. Deciding which dolls to collect is very personal. Some collectors gravitate towards dolls that remind them of their childhood, others choose dolls that remind them of their favorite literary characters.

- Join a collector's club. Collec-



**Created specifically for new collectors, Grand Entrance Barbie comes packaged with a guide to collecting.**

tor's clubs present the world of doll collecting on a grander scale. Doll shows and conventions are additional fun and exciting venues at which you can learn more about collecting. Clubs, shows and conventions are also great ways to meet new friends who share in your interest.

- View your collection as an investment. Dolls, like other investments, have the ability to

appreciate in value over time. What begins as a hobby may actually turn into an investment. When purchasing a doll, think about the doll's uniqueness, quality and workmanship. The best sources for doll valuation information are collector books and magazines. Internet auction sites such as eBay ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)) also can provide you with valuable secondary market pricing information.

Jill Nordquist, senior product manager at Mattel, advises, "Collecting is as much about acquiring dolls as it is collecting memories. That's why Mattel has created the Grand Entrance Barbie doll that can empower and educate the most novice enthusiast on how to collect and care for dolls—no matter what age. Made for the first-time collector, this doll comes with an escort—a special educational guide to collecting. New and seasoned collectors are sure to appreciate the guide's tips on how to begin—or care for—a collection."

From the very beginning, your new-found hobby can be fun and rewarding. With collecting, you're not just collecting dolls, but beautiful new memories and, perhaps, long-lasting friendships.