Toby Jug: A History and Guide to the Christian Fardel Collection

Toby jugs are a type of ceramic drinking vessel that originated in England in the 18th century. They are typically characterized by their stout, jovial appearance and their colorful decoration, which often features scenes from everyday life or historical events.

Christian Fardel is a renowned collector of Toby jugs. His collection, which numbers over 1,000 pieces, is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the world. Fardel's jugs are displayed in a dedicated museum at his home in Normandy, France.



Toby Jug by Christian A. FARDEL

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In this article, we will take a closer look at the history of Toby jugs and explore some of the highlights of Fardel's collection. We will also provide tips on how to identify and collect Toby jugs.

History of Toby Jugs

The origins of Toby jugs are somewhat obscure. However, it is believed that they first emerged in the Staffordshire region of England in the early 18th century. The name "Toby" is thought to have come from a popular character in the play *Tristram Shandy*, who was known for his love of drinking.

Toby jugs quickly became popular throughout England and were soon being exported to other countries. They were particularly popular in the United States, where they were often used as tavern signs.

The production of Toby jugs peaked in the 19th century. During this time, a wide variety of different styles and designs were produced. Some of the most popular motifs included scenes from everyday life, such as hunting, fishing, and drinking. Other jugs featured historical figures, such as George Washington and Napoleon Bonaparte.

The popularity of Toby jugs declined somewhat in the 20th century.

However, they have remained popular with collectors and are still produced today.

Christian Fardel's Collection

Christian Fardel began collecting Toby jugs in the 1970s. His collection now numbers over 1,000 pieces, making it one of the largest and most comprehensive in the world.

Fardel's jugs are displayed in a dedicated museum at his home in Normandy, France. The museum is open to the public by appointment.

Fardel's collection includes a wide variety of different styles and designs. Some of the highlights include: * A jug featuring a scene from the Battle of Trafalgar * A jug depicting the coronation of Queen Victoria * A jug with a portrait of William Shakespeare * A jug with a scene from the American Revolution

Fardel's collection is not only a valuable historical resource, but it is also a beautiful work of art. The jugs are a testament to the skill and creativity of the potters who made them.

How to Identify and Collect Toby Jugs

If you are interested in collecting Toby jugs, there are a few things you should keep in mind.

* **First**, Toby jugs are typically made of earthenware or porcelain. They are usually glazed and decorated with colorful paint. * **Second**, Toby jugs are typically characterized by their stout, jovial appearance. They often have a wide belly and a small head. * **Third**, Toby jugs are often decorated with scenes from everyday life or historical events.

When collecting Toby jugs, it is important to do your research. This will help you to identify genuine Toby jugs and to avoid buying fakes.

Here are a few tips for collecting Toby jugs:

* **Start by learning about the different styles and designs of Toby jugs.**
This will help you to narrow down your search. * **Attend antique shows and flea markets.** This is a great way to find Toby jugs for sale. * **Shop online.** There are a number of reputable online dealers who sell Toby jugs. * **Be patient.** It takes time to build a collection of Toby jugs. Don't get discouraged if you don't find the perfect jug right away.

Collecting Toby jugs can be a rewarding and enjoyable hobby. By following the tips above, you can start your own collection and enjoy the beauty and history of these unique ceramic vessels.

Additional Resources

* [Toby Jug Collectors' Club](https://www.tobyjugcollectorsclub.org/) * [International Toby Jug Society] (https://www.internationaltobyjugsociety.org/) * [The Toby Jug Museum] (https://www.tobyjugmuseum.co.uk/)



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