PART I THE CELEBRITIES AND THEIR COLLECTIBLES



DAN AYKROYD BOOKS ON THE SUPERNATURAL AND POLICE BADGES

Dan Aykroyd likes to wear all types of hats—actor, comedian, director, television writer, and screenwriter—and he's good at all of them.

A Canadian, Aykroyd came into the living rooms of Americans with the smash television hit Saturday Night Live when it debuted in 1975. After five years of playing everyone from Richard Nixon to Julia Child on the series, he would move on to movies, taking his Saturday Night Live "Blues Brother" and long-time friend, John Belushi, along with him. The Blues Brothers was Aykroyd's first movie, and he wrote the screenplay. Other movies followed, including Doctor Detroit, Trading Places, Ghostbusters, Spies Like Us, and Dragnet. He received his first Best Supporting Actor nomination for his performance in Driving Miss Daisy.

This Blues Brother likes more than just playing a ghostbuster. One of his hobbies includes reading about the supernatural. This is where he got the idea for *Ghostbusters*.

Aykroyd has an extensive collection of books on the supernatural. He enjoys ufology—the study of UFOs (unidentified flying objects). He was quoted in *Private Clubs* as saying, "But I am also interested in those who've gone before and in spirits that linger because they haven't been satisfied in this life. My great-grandfather was an Edwardian spiritualist who belonged to the British Society for Psychical Research, and he got the entire family thinking along these lines back three generations ago. My grandfather had séances in the farmhouse. My father read

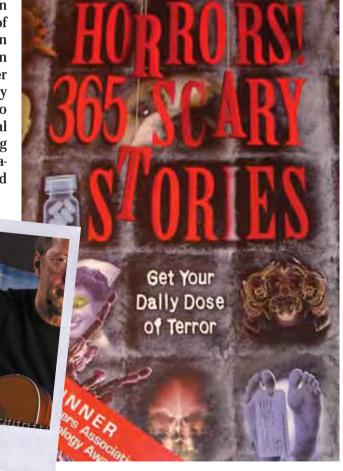
everything he could on trance mediumship, where the medium will go into a trance and become another person, speak in another voice. They did a lot of that. So this stuff was lying around the house, and it was natural for me to have an interest in it."

Besides reading about ghosts and goblins, Aykroyd is said to be a bit of a law-enforcement buff and, thus, collects badges. I've heard that he's even been known to do an occasional ridealong in a squad car!

Though not confirmed, rumors around toy shows say that Aykroyd has a fondness for a little twelveinch guy named GI Joe. He is a great actor, writer, and director and a dedicated collector as well.

JUICY TIDBIT!

Aykroyd isn't the only one who believes in ghosts. Actresses Greta Garbo, Marilyn Monroe, and Lucille Ball all sought out a clairvoyant, according to a story in McCalls. Even Princess Diana met with a British medium named Rita Rogers. According to the same story in McCalls, Barbra Streisand and Madonna have also had consultations with psychics. Aykroyd told McCalls, in a fall 1999 interview, that he was convinced that spirits not only existed but also were dwelling in his Canadian home. He had heard a strange knocking ("a kind of electronic snap") when no one else was present, and he had seen lights flickering on and off by themselves. He stated, "The house has a history of spiritual activity that would blow your mind."



Dan Aykroyd (AP Photo)

An example of a scary book Aykroyd could collect.

MATTHEW BRODERICK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND ILLY CUPS

Do you know which musical instrument actor **Matthew Broderick collects?**

- a) Guitars
- b) Trombones
- c) Flutes

According to representatives from the History Channel, the answer is trombones.

I've heard Matthew and his wife, Sarah Jessica Parker, also collect illy cups. These delicate coffee cups are made in limited edition and created by international artists. The coffee cup and plate are signed and numbered and run about thirty dollars each. Another collector who is said to collect the interesting sets is Francis Ford Coppola.

DID YOU KNOW?

Music buff and talk-show host Bill Maher has an extensive music library. Included in his collection are shelves of old vinyl albums and forty-fives and hundreds of CDs. They are sorted by decade and genre. Maher told People, "I don't collect art or cars or motorcycles. I'm a file guy." Evidently, that's true. According to the article, his home office contains twenty-two separate file drawers, each filled with carefully labeled folders.



Matthew Broderick and his wife enjoy collecting illy cups. (Courtesy illy caffe North America, Inc.)





Matthew Broderick and his wife, Sarah Jessica Parker. (AP Photo)

NICOLAS CAGE EUROPEAN SPORTS CARS AND COMIC BOOKS

Nicolas Cage, an actor, director, and producer, has a love for comic books, which he started collecting as a child. He even acquired the double-print image of Superman that artist Andy Warhol designed, extending his love of comics to the form of fine art. This love brought him his stage name of Nicolas Cage, after comic-book character Luke Cage (Hero for Hire). Growing up, Cage staged

scenes for shows and spent hours imagining himself as a comicbook character. **Nicolas** told Movieline, "Comic books and cartoons have a lot of influence in my life. I'm like a sponge. I could see a commercial on TV and get an idea, just the delivery someone gave will

stay in my head, and I will spew it back out."

Cage parted with his favorites when Heritage Comics of Dallas auctioned his comic collection of 141 lots for \$1.68 million. Among the highlights of Nicolas Cage's collection was a 1940 Detective #38 comic that featured the debut of Batman's sidekick, Robin, the Boy Wonder. It went for \$120,750, over a price-guide list of \$45,000. A 1940 All-Star Comic #3, introducing the Justice Society of America, sold for an amazing \$126,500, against a value of \$45,000. It was the first comic book to introduce a superhero team. The Justice Society of America included characters like the Green Lantern, the Flash, Hawkman, Hourman, Dr. Fate, the Spectre, the Sandman, and the Atom. Cage's comic book marking the first appearance of Superman (Action Comics #1 from 1938) sold for \$86,250, including buyer's premium.

With a total of \$5.2 million, the sale, which also included comic art, movie posters, and memorabilia not in Nicolas Cage's collection, set a new world record for comic-book auctions.

Besides comic books and superheroes, Cage has a

passion for sports cars. He plays the role of movie star well by driving not one, but a variety of European sports cars from his collection. It's been said that he has paid as much as half a million dollars for a car to indulge his collecting habit. Cage's collection of automobiles consists of

many types and models, including an Austin-Healey that gave him a scare on the freeway by spinning out of control one night. His collection is composed of Corvette Stingrays (namely 1967 metallic-blue version nicknamed the Blue Shark). Lamborghinis, Bentleys, Ferraris, and a 1967 Chevelle, to mention a

few. One of the rarest cars in Cage's assort-

ment is a 1971 Lamborghini Miura SVJ, once owned by the late Shah of Iran. The car, which was auctioned off at a Geneva, Switzerland, auction house, sold for nearly double the preestimate value, at \$446,820. It's a metallic-burgundy beauty, the first of only four SVJs built, and was in mint condition when purchased by Cage. The speedometer read less than two thousand miles. Cage became the proud owner of the Lamborghini in 1997. At its selling price, it was the most expensive car auctioned off in Europe that year.

Though Cage also loves writing short stories and screenplays, he has said that if he wasn't acting he'd probably be designing cars or starting a comic-book company.

I hope he isn't reading his comics while driving one of his sports cars!

Top: Nicolas Cage (Courtesy Shooting Stars)

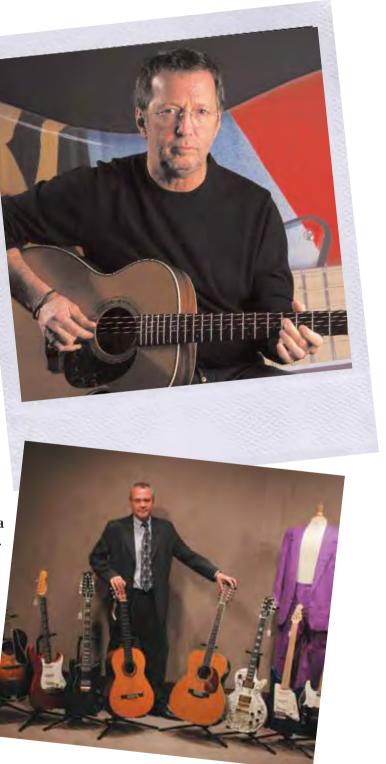
The Adventures of Superman, Showcase, and Ghost Rider comic books. (Photographs of copyrighted D.C. Comics and Marvel Comics comic-book covers)

ERIC CLAPTON

This singer/musician uses his collection of guitars for a good cause. The West Indies rehab center on the island of Antigua, Crossroads Centre, which Eric Clapton helps fund, was causing a financial drain on the guitarist. The anticipating center was patients from overseas. Instead, the local residents are taking advantage of the free medical care the center offers Clapton's expense. at Therefore, Clapton auctioned off a portion of his guitar collection to help the center. The auction was held in 1999 at Christie's Auction House. In all, Clapton auctioned off one hundred stage and studio guitars, including "Brownie," the famous 1956 Fender Stratocaster he used for the Layla sessions; a rare 1958 Gibson Explorer; a 1974 Martin 000-28 steel string; a 1959 Gibson ES-335; a 1952 Fender Telecaster; and a 1956 Gibson ES-350TN. "Brownie" alone was expected to fetch \$80,000 to \$100,000. A 1954 Fender Stratocaster sold to Michael Malone of AEI Music for \$211,500. Two lots were purchased by actor Michael J. Fox via telephone, including a 1949 Gibson-125 for \$36,800 and a circa-1930s National Duolian for \$42,500. Expected to garner over \$1 million, the auction ultimately raised over \$5 million.

The top sales were "Brownie" (used on the whole Layla album), which sold for \$497,500, and a 1954 Fender Stratocaster (used in the mid-1970s for slide, stage, and recording), which sold for \$211,500. Clapton said the idea of auctioning off the guitars came from the Crossroads Centre's fundraising committee.

Some collections are put to good use, as was this one.



Hamish Dodds, president and CEO of the Hard Rock Café. secured over \$250,000 in Eric Clapton memorabilia, including guitars and a purple Versace suit worn by Clapton, to adorn the walls of cafés around the world. (AP Photo)

Top: Eric Clapton (AP Photo)

DICK CLARK

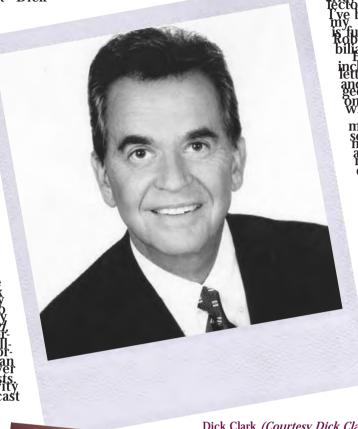
checked my answering macinie, e man, and manbox dairy finally produced the very first response from my initial

attempts at reaching the celebrity collit's no secret that Dick Clark loves rock-'n'-roll. Known as the "World's Oldest Teenager," Clark has built an empire out of the music. His restaurants, under the name Dick Clark's **American Bandstand** Grille, house a large amount of the rock-referriessly contact-in roll memorabilisming by contact-ing have the from he has collected over celebrities to agents celebrities, to ager he years. When *Ba* o publicists (some stand was picked whom now picked by ABC in 1957 C by voice when

American Bandstan efforts have brought pended, the shows sonal interviews or c white policy and beg respondence from o respondence from over introducing black artists, one puncred celebrity By 1959, it was broadcast collectors by While some celebri reached an audionce of ties were busy filming twenty million.

ranged, its name to iswer the phone)—n

Clark was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993. Clark, of Dick Clark Productions, is much more than a great businessman. He is an avid collector with years in the entertainment business, giving him easy access to an



Dick Clark (Courtesy Dick Clark)



Tavorite "Celebrities: full of show-biz memorabin Leach." Items that
How exciting to get his
clude Bo Diddley's boots
etter, along with a goryeous photograph or him
boe and only Elvis Presley.
With his collection of
marine paperweights! I'll
so large, the restaurants
never a perfect place to are a perfect place to moment, moment display his memorabil-NOW, nearly SIX ia Having them for years later—and after show in the restaurants also gives other collectors an opportunity to view this awe-inspiring assortment of items. The restaurants, located in the Indianapolis and Newark International Airports, cover their walls with vintage photos, gold records, artists' contracts,

movies or on conc four when contacted of the items shown in many of their agents the restaurant are part of and, publicists made Clark, spersonal collection Clark has spent a miormation to include lifetime collecting a lifetime of memories. time of memories. I say thank you!

To hear what is in the minds and hearts of so many famous people has truly been an interesting journey, a journey that you, the reader, will be able

to take as you follow an adventur-ous tour of hobbies, obsessions, and loves to the hearts and souls of your favorite celebrities.

What Celebrities Collect! is the result of many years of serious effort, an effort that was worth every minute. And once you read through this interesting book, you'll see why. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I've enjoyed writing it.

Happy Collecting!

GEORGE CLOONEY MOTORCYCLES

Academy Award-winning actor and heartthrob George Clooney, who played Dr. Doug Ross on the hit television series *ER* and starred in several great films, can be seen driving around the streets of L.A. on one of his favorite motorcycles. The star, who played Batman in the film Batman & Robin, has no trouble holding up the two-wheeled machines. Harleys are certainly a favorite. He's even been known to buy motorcycles for friends.

In an interview with Riccardo Romani, Clooney talked about his first bike: "It was a Harley, like those in endowment to the police. It was 1982. Then I got a Honda-like chopper. Recently, I have exaggerated. I've bought five in only one go, for my friends, for going around all together. But the new Indian bikes aren't good enough. They give you a lot of problems. The old ones were better. I've had one [from the year] 1949, a spectacle." Clooney works on the bikes himself when they need a little work. In that same interview, Clooney stated, "It's the most funny part. I want to say, I have taken two hours and I have gotten dirty up to the ears, but you don't know what satisfaction it is

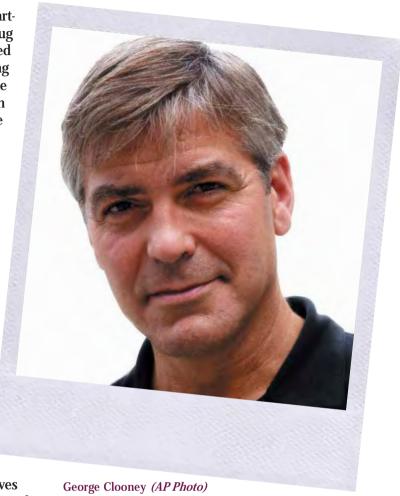
when the motorbike runs again. Whoever loves the motorbike knows about it, there is no need to

explain it. This is the reason for which I prefer the old motorbikes to those new ones. Perhaps it is a romantic thing, but those new bikes always leave you afoot and stop. You cannot do anything."

Always the nice guy, Clooney helped donate several BMW C1 scooters equipped with first-aid equipment to the Italian people so others can ride around and help people at the same time!

Now let's just hope George wears his helmet. I'd hate to see that pretty face all scratched up.

George Clooney stands in Rome's Campidoglio square next to one of the ten BMW C1 scooters equipped with first aid for heart problems donated by Clooney, Italian pop singer Lucio Dalla, and the Running Heart Foundation. (AP Photo)





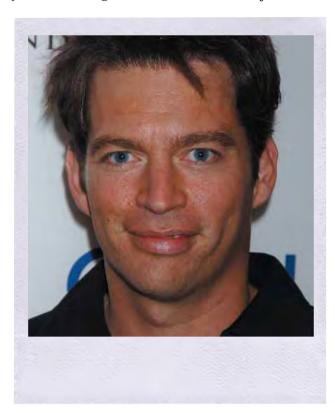
HARRY CONNICK, JR. CUFF LINKS

Bringing sounds of Frank Sinatra into this generation, the swing and big-band music of crooner Harry Connick, Jr. would leave any woman falling over her

table to get closer to this New Orleans dream Growing up in man. New Orleans with a love for jazz, Connick would wear suits. Now living in Connecticut with his wife, Victoria's Secret model Jill Goodacre, and their children, Connick takes every opportunity to dress his best. Today his Gucci suits are the top of fashion, but they are never topped off with one of the pairs of cuff links from his collection. He talked to InStyle about his cufflink collection and said,

"I never, never wear them. I don't know why I collect them. My Aunt Lil in California sent me some that were my uncle's. They're costume jewelry. I

have a case my wife gave me that sits on my dresser: it's full of unused cuff links." Perhaps some day Connick will put his collection to good use by wearing some of his different pieces. Did I mention that besides being a collector, Connick is also a great guy? He brought my daughter, Angela, on stage and sang her a song while performing in Knoxville. Angela now has a Harry Connick, Jr. autographed collectible teddy bear to remember the occasion.



Harry Connick, Jr. (AP Photo)



Cuff links are Connick's collection of choice.

NORM CROSBY **ELEPHANTS**

The hunt is on, and Norm Crosby is out for the capture. When asked what he collected, Crosby said, "Social Security!" Leave it to this great comedian to come back with a quick joke. But thirty-five years of collecting elephants is no laughing matter for this collector.

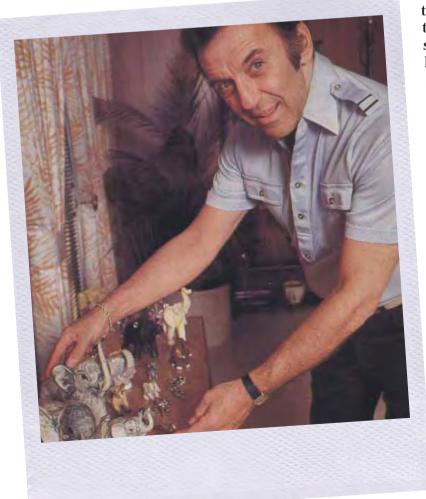
"My wife, Joan, collects elephants, and so whenever I travel, I am always on the lookout for unique models of elephants," states Crosby. For the Crosbys, collecting is a family tradition. Joan's family has been collecting elephants for three generations. Crosby says, "There are elephants made of wood, bronze, Lalique, silver, glass, plaster, pewter, etc." The list can go on forever. The selection is as enormous as the elephant's trunk! Lalique, silver, and bronze versions can be quite expensive, while ones made of wood, plaster, and other materials can run much lower in cost.

"My favorites are the smallest ones, because they are easy to carry in my shoulder bag!" Big or small, the important thing is that the elephant has its

trunk up. According to Crosby, "Only elephants with their trunks raised are considered collectible." Crosby points out that an important thing to remember about collecting elephants with the trunks raised is that they are said to bring good luck. The elephants should have their trunks facing into the house to bring in the good luck. With all the groupings in this collector's home, he is sure to have enough luck to last a lifetime.

Crosby is always looking for new pieces to add to his and his wife's collection. He told Collectibles Illustrated, "Searching for elephants gives you something to do when you're away from home. When I go places where I've been several times and there are no interesting things to do, I can always go to the antique shops or other stores and look for elephants." He continued, "I was working at a nightclub in Washington, DC one time and got to know everyone at a particular hotel where I

> stayed. One day the cashier in the coffee shop said she had something to give me. It turned out to be a little gold elephant. She told me that several years before, she had been a hotel clerk at the front desk in one of the big Washington hotels and that Bob Hope—whose good luck charm was an elephant—came in and gave it to her for good luck. She said, 'I want to give it to you so that it will bring you the same luck that Bob Hope had.' I took it and put it in my tuxedo pocket. This was in the late '50s. And, believe it or not, I have never done a show of any sort to this day that I don't have that little elephant in my pocket. I've even held up a show that was about to start so that I could go all the way back up to my room and get my little elephant."



Norm Crosby and his elephant collection. (Courtesy Ralph Merlino)

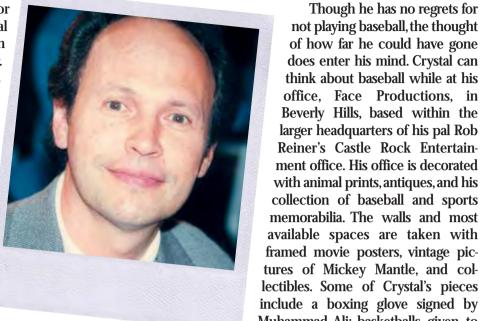
BILLY CRYSTAL SPORTS MEMORABILIA

Whether as a city slicker or an Oscar host, Billy Crystal can keep you in stitches with his unique brand of humor. Billed as one of America's favorite masters of ceremonies, he can look you in the eye and, with an expression or gesture, put a smile on your face. The star of such movies as When Harry Met Sally, My Giant, and City Slickers, Crystal has also starred on television, in the weekly hit Soap, and has been a regular at the Comic Relief benefit shows, along with fellow collectors Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams.

A devoted Yankees fan, Crystal's collecting passions run to the old-fashioned or "take me out to the ball game" days, with baseball and sporting memorabilia hitting a home run. Keeping him away from baseball is not an easy thing to do.

In an interview with Yahoo, Crystal stated, "I was making *My Giant* in the middle of the Czech Republic during baseball season. Each day I would call up ESPN and other sports sites to get scores." Crystal has even gone so far as to purchase a small percentage of a baseball team, the Arizona Diamondbacks.

He loves baseball so much he's stated that if he wasn't acting or being a comedian he'd be playing the game. With Crystal's love of baseball has come the love of collecting sports memorabilia. In the same interview, he stated, "I have mostly Mickey Mantle stuff. I was given an award by the Anti-Defamation League in New York. Instead of a plaque, they gave me an original chair from Yankee Stadium. Mickey signed it: 'Dear Billy, I wish I was still playing and you were still sitting here.' He's the guy who made me want to play baseball. I love the game."



include a boxing glove signed by Muhammad Ali; basketballs given to him by friends, including Michael Jordan; and a bat given to him by Mickey Mantle's family. Crystal told *InStyle* magazine, "Baseball is my thing. I called myself Mickey in *Forget Paris*, and I've mentioned him [Mickey Mantle] in a lot of movies. When Mickey died, Bob Costas called and said, 'You gotta come [to the funeral]. Do you want to speak?' I said no, but we stayed up till 4 A.M. writing the eulogy—which Bob delivered—like two college kids

cramming for an exam."

Crystal continued, "I sat in George Steinbrenner's box with Joe DiMaggio and Henry Kissinger, whom I'd met before on the Concorde. He said, 'I want to say something: You look mahvelous!'" It was then that Crystal picked up yet another souvenir, a cigar from the 1996 World Series.

Crystal's favorite baseball player, Mickey Mantle, is a favorite of many. It has been reported that Crystal bought a 1956 Mickey Mantle glove for \$239,000 at Sotheby's auction. The glove formerly belonged to Barry Halper, a well-known sportsmemorabilia collector. Halper told *Trade Fax*, "He's [Crystal] going to play with it. He wants a good workout using Mickey's glove."

Top: Billy Crystal (Courtesy Shooting Stars)

Mickey Mantle's baseball glove, which is now in Crystal's collection.

JAMIE LEE CURTIS PHOTOGRAPHS

When I first met actress and children's-book author Jamie Lee Curtis in Chicago, I told her that

I had heard she collected photo-

graphs. She seemed surprised that I knew but was happy to confirm that she does. "Yes, I do collect photographs, mainly blackand-white photos," she said. "I tried to collect some of the master contemporary photographers."

While Curtis's father, Tony, is an accomplished painter (her mother was actress Janet Leigh), it's the black-and-white photographs this amateur photographer loves. She said she had been collecting them for "quite some time" and that many of the photos in her collection are very emotional for her.

Curtis told Homestore.com, "I love very poignant black-andwhite photos. One of my favorites is of a woman obviously poor and troubled. I don't know how I identified with the anguish the woman in the photo is going through, but there is something so evocative about the picture that it continues to affect me. Photographs do that to mepaintings, not as much. There are certain photographs that can wipe me out. I take pictures so I'm much more into photography than anything else."

Besides photographs, Curtis has kept some slates from various movies in which she has appeared, including True Lies, Halloween, Blue Steel, A Fish Called Wanda, and Perfect.



Jamie Lee Curtis (AP Photo)

Jamie Lee loves photography like this black-andwhite photograph by Dorothea Lange. (Library of Congress)

JIM DAVIS

Cartoonist Jim Davis has a constant companion. He's a fat, lazy, wisecracking, lasagna-eating cat named Garfield. Davis created Garfield in 1978 and since then the phenomenal success of that little cat

has done nothing but grow. GARFIELD® is the most widely syndicated Sunday comic in the United States and worldwide has more than 220 million readers daily. The "Garfield" books have been translated into twenty-six languages. Garfield had his own series on CBS television and countless prime-time specials, and a plethora of "Garfield" merchandise sells in sixty-nine countries.

Davis's love (besides Garfield, of course) is wines, however, not just any wine. Davis prefers to collect and buy wines by vintage. He told me, "Prices of old wines at auctions have gone crazy. One of the most valuable

collections belongs to Hardy Rodenstock, a German music publisher, who owns eighteenth-century wines that belonged to Jefferson." Forbes magazine bought one of the bottles, a Chateau Lafite 1787, in 1985 for a record price of \$156,450. That is

\$22,350 a glass. According to Jancis Robinson, author and wine expert (from an interview with *Parade*), "They kept it in a museum and it spoiled under a spotlight. Thus the world's most expensive wine became the world's most expensive vinegar." Davis said, "I have a few thousand bottles of wine in my collection." He also collects limited-edition books as well as "Garfield" memorabilia.

He also wanted me to share with everyone that Garfield isn't a collector, but Jon is. "He collects socks," said Davis. "He has a sock drawer and sorts them by color and style."

DID YOU KNOW?

Model and actress Claudia Schiffer collects bugs. She told *People* magazine, "I collect dried insects and have them in frames. I also have a huge collection of insect books."



Top and Left: Jim Davis and Garfield (Courtesy Jim Davis, Garfield ©Paws, Inc.)

Right: Jim Davis with his wine collection. (Courtesy Jim Davis, Garfield @Paws, Inc.)

JOHNNY DEPP INSECTS AND RARE BOOKS

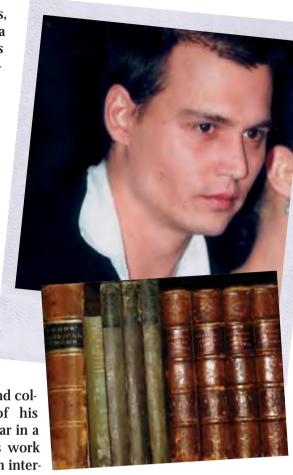
One of my favorite actors, Johnny Depp, has starred in a multitude of films after his humble beginning on the television series 21 Jump Street, including movies like A Nightmare on Elm Street, Edward Scissorhands, and Pirates of the Caribbean. The star, who bought Bela Lugosi's old mansion in the Hollywood Hills, is also a musician who plays the guitar. Depp has played in over fifteen different bands.

This actor has several collections. A big fan of author Jack Kerouac, the American writer known for such books as On the Road and Big Sur, Depp has framed letters by the

author hanging in his home and collects first-edition copies of his books. Depp would love to star in a movie based on the author's work (screenwriters get busy). In an interview with *Movieline*. Depp talked about the book On the Road, stating, "I thought I'd buy the rights, then thought I'd be doing an injus-

tice to the real thing. Kerouac had to write those books. Most movies only get made because a company thinks it's a good idea, financially." An article in Rolling Stone stated that Depp's prized possession, and one that cost him a good portion of his burgeoning fortune, is a book on black culture in whose margins Kerouac has scribbled and doodled. According to Depp, "It's a piece of history. I look at it everyday." Depp also owns several items that once belonged to Kerouac, including two jackets, a raincoat, a suitcase, some correspondence, and, of course, original manuscripts. Depp even went as far as meeting Kerouac's in-laws.

Depp has another collection that some may find a bit strange. A March 1997 Newsweek article states, "Depp loves bugs. He collects them, mounted old style with pins in glass boxes." His favorite bug store is in Paris. As a child, Depp loved bugs, especially the



Rare books similar to those that Depp collects.

Top: Johnny Depp (Courtesy Shooting Stars)

bugs and lizards he encountered living in Florida. In an interview with the actor, GQ stated that his home is "carpeted with books and CD's and ashtrays; heaps of eccentric collectibles (bats and bugs, a pigeon skeleton and paintings of clowns); photographs of his heroes William Burroughs and Jack Kerouac and his family; the hat and cane from Benny & Joon and that Scissorhands piece hanging on the wall." According to a story in Biography, mass murderer John Wayne Gacy painted one of the scary clown paintings Depp once owned.

Other items the actor has in his collection include: a souvenir from Edward Scissorhands, the bladed limbs and a prototype for an Edward

Scissorhands doll that never got made, the wig for his part in Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, and a "Wanted" poster from Dead Man. Depp likes to keep items from the various movies in which he has appeared. In an interview with Vogue, Depp stated, "I keep stuff from movies so I can give it to my grandchildren someday... if I have them."

In that same interview, it's stated that Depp has oddly shaped arts-and-craft lamps to go along with his collection of art-deco furnishings, black-andwhite photographs, and gilt-framed seventeenthcentury Italian oil paintings he bought in Paris. He also owned a personalized record plaque from Oasis and pictures of Jean Cocteau.

Depp is the kind of collector who transforms his collecting passions as often as he changes roles. Who knows what may strike this actor's fancy in the future?