



The Statue of Liberty Collectors' Club

Vol. 1 No. 1

Premier Issue

Fall 1991

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WELCOME!

Here is the first of what we hope will be many issues of this special newsletter for collectors of Statue of Liberty memorabilia, and for others who love the Lady and want to know more about her. When the idea for a club with this purpose occurred to us, we had no idea if anyone else was "out there". We advertised in many antique oriented publications got a boost from Americana and Victorian Homes who printed our press release, and we waited. Much to our amazement and delight the letters began to arrive and we now have seventy potential members, ages ten to seventy-nine years, from sixteen states and Canada! The success of this undertaking will depend largely on the support, enthusiasm and participation of each of you. Spread the word about us to the undiscovered collectors. We now know you are out there!

Iris and Mort November

*"Give me your tired,
your poor
your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of
your teeming shore.
Send these,
the homeless,
tempest-tost to me.
I lift my lamp beside the
golden door!"*

VISIT MISS LIBERTY

We were two of the 2.6 million visitors to the Statue of Liberty last year and plan to return this year. According to the NY Times, (June 16, 1991,) up to 10,000 people have visited in one day! However, they suggest that you arrive early to avoid the crush. Board the ferry at Battery Park, lower Manhattan, on the half hour starting at 9:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. The ferry stops first at Miss Liberty, and then stops at Ellis Island before returning to Battery Park. It's a one price ticket so you can see both in one day. The museum at the statue has wonderful memorabilia, from early statues to advertising and sheet music, plus post cards and more post cards. We were thrilled to see some of the items in our collection also on display in the museum collection. More about these two historic places later.

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DID YOU KNOW...

that there is a Miss Liberty built in the middle of the Susquehanna River in Dauphin, Pa. She was built in 1986 out of old venetian blinds by a group of local youngsters. Each year, around the 4th of July these same kids make the necessary repairs. The Chief of Police of Dauphin, Pat Corkle, sent this information to me plus some postcards, after I wrote to tell him we almost went off the road trying to see what we thought we saw! There is another Statue in the middle of the Seine River just outside of Paris. Details to follow...

TAKING LIBERTIES... Excerpts from the letters we've received



Dear Iris,

My collection is too big for me to list. But I can tell you I have very few pieces that are new. All of my pieces are souvenirs of the Statue of Liberty. I'm sorry I couldn't write sooner. I was just finishing school when I got your letter. I am going to be nine in August. I started collecting at five... Can you tell me how many people have written to you? Before this I thought no other people collected Statues of Liberty...

Sincerely, Judith LePera, Quakerstown, PA

Editor's note, I really enjoyed Judith's letter and hope to publish the picture she sent—her collection is nicely displayed.

Dear Iris,

I'm a collector of Statue of Liberties for the past 8-9 years. Just found out about your club and I'm super interested in getting involved. I just found a man from Oakland, Ca., who is a collector and I will inform him too... After 9 years of searching for others with the same passion for "the lady" and no luck - now I've found 2 sources in one week!

Sincerely, Karen Ferrandi, La Jolla, CA.

Editor's note, I love the enthusiasm! Karen wrote a beautiful story which you will read in the next newsletter.

SHOPPING FOR TREASURES

It's amazing! Once you have established that you will collect items related to the Statue of Liberty your antenna activates, an electro-magnetic field surrounds you, and you set off for a flea market, antique show, garage sale or whatever, and items "jump" off the tables, shelves, grass, to find you! Sometimes the article is as small as a lapel pin, or as large as a 5 foot department store display. If you are very fortunate, you have a best friend with the same mystique, and she becomes your "picker" when you are elsewhere. Recently, at an antique car show, she found, behind some boxes, a serving tray, reverse painting on glass, of the statue with a 48 star flag behind her. This dated the piece prior to 1959 (Alaska and Hawaii statehood). This lovely 32 year old treasure, in excellent condition was purchased for \$4. It's great to have friends who share with you, and who get as excited as you get when a treasure is found.



As an artist, the words of Emma Lazarus touched my heart. When feelings stir an artist, ideas come together. Recently, I was asked by the National Women's History Project to create an immigration poster. This idea would include women of all cultures who believed in freedom. Emma Lazarus and Harriet Tubman became the central figures in the poster concept. Each was a visionary carrying out her own dream...trying to help her people. The words of the Statue of Liberty and the Statue herself were drawn. The immigrants and Ellis Island strengthen the theme of the poster. All in all there were 19 people depicted in the theme. The sketch was purchased by the Women's History Project, but due to educational cutbacks, the completed idea was put on hold. Still I remembered how long it took to get the Statue built and bring her to America. If one never gives up on her dream, anything is possible. May her light of hope shine on people everywhere. Someday I hope to share this poster with all our members.



WHAT'S IT REALLY WORTH?

Once you have a large collection of any special interest, people assume that you are an expert on the history, value, resale value, and repair of everything in your collection and also theirs! Nothing could be further from the truth. The more we read and travel the more we learn about all of the above, and we talk to lots of people-dealers, curators, shopkeepers, anyone with a common interest. Comparison and experience help too. As for the question—What's it really worth—let me give you two examples. First, a nice lady called me recently to tell me she had purchased a Statue of Liberty lamp in need of wiring and cleaning. As she cleaned it, it became more beautiful. She further described it and I told her I had the same piece in my collection. I said I had paid around \$100 for mine, and thought it was worth somewhere around that figure. When she told me what she had paid, I said she had a real find - 50¢ at a yard sale! Second, we purchased a plaster of Paris novelty bust of Miss Liberty which had 18 holes behind the crown. It probably stood on the counter of the general store holding lollypops or penny flags, both of which we have in it. We paid \$40 for it. Recently at the Atlantic City antique show, this exact item was seen priced at \$800! In both these cases, the treasure is worth somewhere between the high and the low figure, but who can really pinpoint the exact value?



CLASSIFIED SECTION:

Subscribers may advertise at no charge - non-subscribers may advertise at 20¢ a word. All items are subject to prior sale. Interested persons should contact the advertiser directly. This publisher disclaims any responsibility or liability. Please tell the advertiser that you saw the ad in this newsletter.

WANT TO BUY:

1. Liberty admirer. Collects all early related items. Will purchase or trade rare duplicates.

Mike Brooks, ~~1055 E. 11th St., Chicago, IL 60611, (414) 899-8741~~

2. Statue of Liberty, 14", white metal, w/o lit torch or bank.

Details - Ben Casey, ~~877-301-1111, St. Paul, MN 55105~~

3. S of L clock made of statuary bronze, electric clock in base and light bulb in arm -15" or 17" - "Liberty" on clock dial.

N. Snyder, ~~1211 N. Lincoln St., Chicago, IL 60612, (853) 234111~~

4. Video-VHS- Titled "Liberty" with Carrie Fisher
- about the building of S of L.

Joanne Kessler, ~~1401 N. 13th St., Miami, FL 33116~~

FOR SALE:

1. Bartholdi Souvenir Book - rare - c. 1886. Insert "Sketch of the Colossal Statue presented by France to the U.S." Very good condition - \$350.

PEKL, ~~1000 N. 10th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304, (954) 778-8282~~

2. The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook, Tom Bernardin, 1991. The story of our common past told through the recipes and reminiscences of our immigrant ancestors. Contact Tom at ~~916-286-1777, 1777 Ave.,~~

~~1777 Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704, (415) 841-1509~~ (212) 229-0202. 2021 update: ellisbook@aol.com

3. Lady Liberty Watch. Floating flag second hand. Precision Swiss Quartz movement, embroidered leather band. Watch face 1 1/4" diam.

2 year warranty. \$37.50. Item #RNR0012. From Colorful Images,

~~671 E. Foothill Parkway, Boulder, CO 80302, (303) 440-8333~~

4. Shelf clock with picture of Liberty etched on glass. Good working order. Top of clock has a sculptured face. Lydia Apelgren,

~~1094 Dwyer Blvd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, (609) 795-5791~~ \$550 firm.

5. "Liberty - The Statue and the American Dream" by Leslie Allen, c. 1985. Dust jacket. As new. Coffee table size. \$10 ppd.

Nancy Hamel, ~~405 N. Main St., Box 326, Sturbridge, MA 01566~~

~~(508) 339-2500~~

6. Ethnic and Historical paintings and greeting cards. Tomorrow's collectibles. Artist: Sandy Austin Stein, ~~11111 N. 10th St., Santa Rosa, CA 95405, (707) 534-1111~~

~~11111 N. 10th St., Santa Rosa, CA 95405, (707) 534-1111~~ (see article)

7. Glass plates with S of L etched. Details/photos: McMillen and Husband, ~~146 N. Main St., Portland, MI 48875~~

(mention this newsletter)

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Membership Information:

The Statue of Liberty Collectors' Club will publish a newsletter three times a year: Fall, Winter, and Spring with additional bulletins/notices as applicable. The membership fee is \$10 per year which includes the Newsletter, free ad space in the classified section, and a \$2 contribution to the Statue of Liberty Foundation. Send check to Iris November - SLCC, P.O.



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