

Have You Lost Your Marbles? You Can Find Them and More at the Bartholomew County Public Library!

Do you have grandpa's collection of shooters, cat's eyes and steelies? Perhaps you collect vintage clay marbles or newer artisan hand-blown glass marbles. Marbles are just one of the many things collected by adults and children. The library has several books and pictorial guides about marbles that can tell you their history, how they're made and what value they have. Books like *Collecting Antique Marbles* by Paul Baumann, *Pictorial Price Guide of Marbles* by Robert Black or *Marbles Beyond Glass* by Stanley A. Block are available.

Maybe you haven't lost your marbles, but are looking for information about another vintage collectible. At last count, the library had 418 items listed under "antiques and collectibles" with new books coming in all the time. Everything from antique advertising to whirligigs and weathervanes can be found on our shelves. For very general information, consult guides such as *Kovel's*, *Warmen's* or the *Antiques Road Show Primer*. Beginning collectors might choose books like *Antiques 101: How to Buy for Fun & Profit* by Frank Loomis or *Discovering Antiques* by Eric Knowles.

If you already have a collection or are caring for family treasures and would like to preserve them in a professional manner, the library has information to help you do just that. Many artifacts can be cared for with minimal effort, but there are some that need special tools and preservation materials. The following resources, *Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms and Other Prized Possessions* by Don Williams and Louisa Jaggard and *Caring for Your Family Treasures: A Concise Guide to Caring for Your Cherished Belongings* by Jane S. Long and Richard W. Long will point you in the right direction and provide you with additional information on preserving artifacts. Both books are user friendly and well illustrated. Other resources can be located by using the library's Online Catalog or by asking any of the reference librarians.

Several newspapers and magazines are also available. *Antique Week – the Weekly Antique Auction & Collecting Newspaper* is full of informative articles and listings for events, shows, and auctions. Another weekly publication to take a look at is the *Antique Trader* – a paper similar to *Antique Week*. On the magazine rack you will find *Antiques & Collecting Magazine* and *Antique Roadshow Insider*. Both are enjoyable, quick reads and are loaded with great photographs. If you find yourself with a free lunch hour, stop by and take a look!

A last thought about antiques and collectibles: many of us find ourselves at some point with too many items (is there really such a thing?!) and would like to downsize our collections. If (and the word is definitely "if") you should reach this point, then *Sell, Keep or Toss: What to do with a Lifetime of Treasures* by Harry Rinker is the book for you. (But only as a last resort!)

This barely touches on the amount of information available to you at the Bartholomew County Public Library. Please come by and check us out and while you're here check out some books, too!

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