

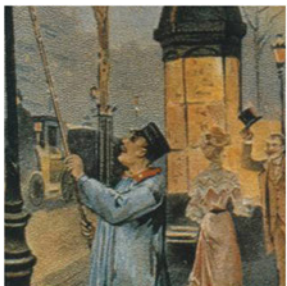
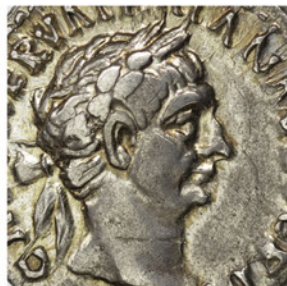
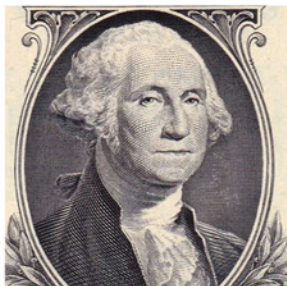
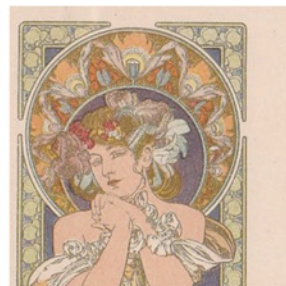
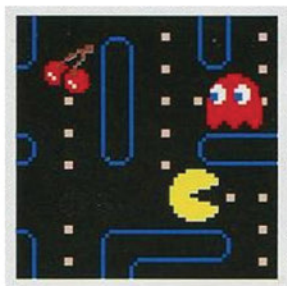
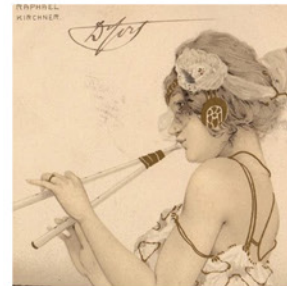


delcampe

The Collectors' Free Magazine

Special Edition No. 1, July 2020

MAGAZINE



Stamps

Starting your stamp collection

Postcards

Raphaël Kirchner

Coins

Emperor Tajan

Toys

Collecting Barbie

Delcampe.
Your best partner
for buying and selling
collectibles.



The greatest marketplace for collectors



editorial

It's been several months now since we decided to bring you the "all collections" special issue magazine to mark Delcampe's 20th year. We have provided the Delcampe Magazine to our philatelist members for a few years now. Although postcard collectors and comic strip lovers can regularly find articles in it that pertain to their passions, the magazine remains mostly directed at philatelists.

We are therefore very pleased to offer a much more general magazine which will interest a wide range of collectors and, we hope, inspire new collections!

The Delcampe Collection Magazine is coming out at a time when many Europeans are stuck at home due to the coronavirus. Confinement has forced us to give up many interests. Fortunately, collecting is a part of our lives. This captivating hobby allows us to escape while staying at home. As a favoured partner of many collectors, Delcampe is happy to be able to help collectors continue to devote themselves to their pas-

sion despite the epidemic.

On the brighter side, Delcampe is celebrating its 20 years! We have been at collectors' sides helping them find or sell their collectable items for 20 years already. Over those 20 years, more than 50 million items have changed hands thanks to Delcampe...and some more than once. 2020 is a milestone year for us and we wanted to celebrate with our members. The special issue magazine is one of the actions we wanted to take. But that's not all! There will be other actions. For example, we have created created collectable items to thank our collectors...Keep an eye out in September!

So, without any further ado, I'd like to invite the philatelists, numismatists, cartophiles, comic book lovers, ludophiles, thimble collectors, bibliophiles and all other collectors to discover the Delcampe Magazine. I hope you will all enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed publishing it. Happy reading!

Héloïse Dautricourt



editorial

The collecting world has many faces, even if there are a lot of similarities between collectors. The main one is curiosity. Collectors are eager to know more about the theme of their collection. Hopefully they will discover unknown information about their favourite topic in this magazine! It is also likely that their curiosity will lead them to discover other collections and even to start a new one!

This magazine is intended to be a generalist magazine. At Delcampe, with a community of more than a million collectors, we can tell you that there are thousands and thousands of collection topics. Basically, if we take the definition of a collection: «A collection of items gathered and classified for their documentary and aesthetic value, for their price, their rarity...» (first definition of the French dictionary Larousse), we can already see that, behind this word, a multitude of items can be found.

Each collection has its own appeal. In this magazine, stamps mingle with toys, thimbles or

coins... Our goal is to offer entertainment to all collectors, from beginners to confirmed collectors, with varied and enjoyable content. The idea for this «all collections» magazine came from our members. Indeed, for the past four years, we have been offering French-speaking philatelists a magazine that is very much appreciated, the Delcampe Magazine. Other collectors have asked us to include articles for them as well. This is how the Delcampe Blog was born in 2017, which aims to be more generalist. In this magazine, many articles are taken from the blog and have sometimes been expanded to benefit from a professional and attractive layout. This magazine is free, you can print it or download it. Do not hesitate to spread the word. For a long time now, we have realized that our members are our best ambassadors. Thank you for your trust and enjoy your reading!

Sébastien Delcampe

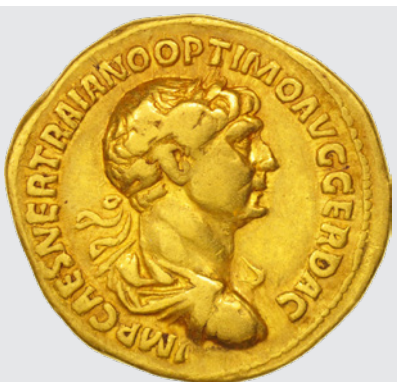
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Starting your stamp collection...

A few tips!

It didn't take long for other European countries to start using the same postage system after the creation of the One Penny Black in 1840. As a result, collectors have been passionate about stamps since the second half of the 19th century.

Do you think you might be interested too?

Here are a few tips to get off to a good start in stamp collecting!

Choosing a subject

Stamp collecting is a very broad topic and stamps can be collected in a number of different ways. It's essential to limit your themes to start your collection off on the right foot. The first question to ask yourself is: "What do I want to collect?" You can choose a country, a theme, a period...There is no wrong choice, as long as you enjoy the subject and you stay focused. Another question to ask yourself is

if you prefer stamps or postal history.

If you have a limited budget, start with a theme, because it will be easy to find nice stamps at a reasonable price. There are many different themes available. For example: famous people, charitable organisations (Red Cross, etc.), a specific region (polar stamps, Andorra, etc.), a specific historical period (wars, the Roaring Twenties, etc.), animals, plants, etc...Anything

goes! Choose something you like. If you have a bigger budget, a traditional collection with a range of stamps from a given country is a good start. You can also choose one stamp in particular and study all of its print runs, varieties, proofs, cancellations...It's fascinating! You can also collect stamps based on letters: where the mail was sent, find the stamp you're looking for on rare or unusual letters. In other words, stamp collecting provides infinite possibilities. Up to you to choose the one that suits you best!

Collecting means learning

Once you've decided on a topic and after buying your first stamps (on Delcampe, of course!), you will quickly realise that you don't know your subject very well. Take the time to learn more about it by reading a lot. The more familiar you are with the subject, the better you'll be able to do good business buying rare stamps!

Stamp collecting clubs and societies are a good place to learn and get advice. They will help you meet other collectors who are as passionate as you are. By sharing your knowledge with each other, you will be sure to make positive progress in your stamp collecting knowledge.

Get the right tools

Get a good magnifying glass, strong binders and useful catalogues for your collection, at a minimum. While these investments can be expensive, they are a requirement to properly manage your hobby.

You can find a wide range of se-

cond-hand collection materials on Delcampe, at much lower prices. It's a good option, even if it's just to get started.

Give yourself some time and space

A collection can quickly grow and take up space. Get a shelf to store your treasures or, if you can, an entire room! That will give you a place for yourself where you can take the time to dedicate yourself to your passion. You'll be surprised to find out the extent to which collecting can empty your mind and distract you from your everyday worries.



Some figures about Delcampe

25 million stamps for sale on Delcampe

19 million stamps already sold

There are 7,421 categories of stamps

When you compare it to the price of a session with a psychologist, you might even conclude that collecting is a cheap hobby! Set up a schedule and stick to it. Make your collecting a habit, but don't let it restrict you! Set aside a few hours to read and search for the stamps you're missing on Delcampe. Take advantage of walks to tour the trade fairs and shows in your area. It will be an opportunity to meet other collectors and, who knows, make some new friends!

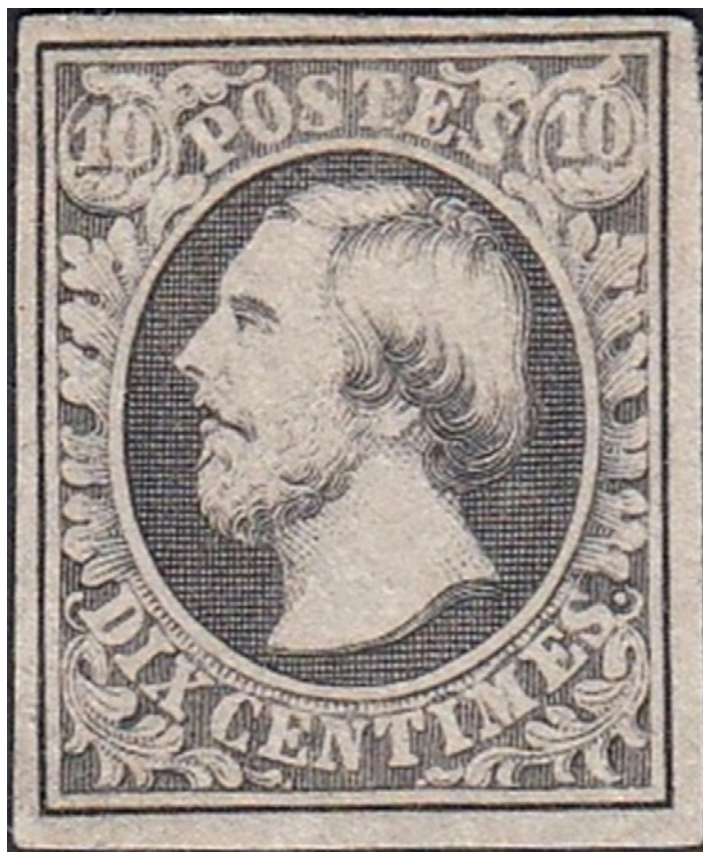
Grow with your collection

If you feel that you've exhausted your subject, you can switch to a new one or present yours to an audience. You can take part in exhibitions or competitions. Before showing your first collection, decide on a theme to determine what you want to show.

It's unusual to be able to show all of your stamps. Ask collectors who have entered competitions in the past. They can give you precious advice! Be sure to join a stamp collecting club or society. They will welcome you with open arms! Take the time to read all instructions to avoid losing points for mistakes and be sure to take the time to visit the collections of other collectors. You'll be able to see how they do things and you'll make discoveries!

Convinced? It's a good conviction! Stamp collecting is particularly relaxing and you'll meet very interesting people! Make the most of it!





3

Do you know the first stamps of these 10 countries?



1

It is likely that many of our readers who are lovers of classical philately can answer this question without the slightest doubt, but a small recap can always be useful. Let's rediscover the No.1 of these countries according to the Yvert and Tellier catalogue.

Spain: The first Spanish stamp dates back to 1850, it depicts Queen Isabella II in profile in white on a black background. This stamp has a face value of 6c and is part of a series of 5 stamps (other values : 12c lilac, 5r red-brown, 6r blue, 10r light green). (1)



2



4



5



6

Great Britain: Not knowing about the One Penny black of Great Britain issued in 1840 is unforgivable as it is simply the first stamp issued in the world. Bearing the face of Queen Victoria in white on a black background, it is recognisable by its small crown watermark which differentiates it from the 1864 reprints. The 2p blue was issued at the same time. (2)

In Luxembourg, the first stamp issued is in the effigy of William III in profile in medallion on a brown-black background. It dates from 1852 and is part of a series of 2 stamps (the other value is 1s brown-red). In order to differentiate these first stamps from the following print, the watermark of the first issue is a W. (3)

The first Swiss stamp comes from the canton of Geneva. It is a double 2*5c stamp printed in black on a green background with the inscription «Port Cantonal» on the top. It bears the coat of arms of the Canton of Geneva. However, it was not until 1850 that the first stamp valid for the whole of Switzerland was issued. (4)

The first stamp of the former Italian States before unification was a series of 5 stamps of Lombardy-Venetia issued in 1850. When Italy became an independent nation in 1861, 4 stamps of the 4th issue of the Kingdom of Sardinia were first used, perforating them. It was not until 1863 that the first stamp bearing the word «Italian» appeared, a 15c stamp with the effigy of Victor-Emmanuel II. (5)

The first Belgian stamp is bearing the effigy of Leopold I. It is the Epaulettes issue which includes a set of two stamps, the 10c brown and the 20c blue. The first one is the 10c stamp issued in 1849. There are many different shades of this stamp. (6)

As for Switzerland, the first German stamps were local stamps. The first Empire stamp dates from 1872. With a face value of $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen it bears an embossed eagle in a medallion which is printed in purple. (7)

The first stamps of the United States were first of all local stamps including the famous Blue Boy of Alexandria. We have to wait until 1847 for the first general issue: the first stamp of 5c with the effigy of Benjamin Franklin. It is part of a series of two stamps, the other bearing the face of George Washington and with a face value of 10c. (8)

In the Netherlands, the first stamp issued is in the effigy of William III in profile, as a medallion on a blue background. Its face value is 5c. It dates from 1852 and is part of a set of three stamps (the other values : 10c carmine rose, 15c orange). (9)

The first stamp of France, which is Republic since 1789, bears the face of the goddess Ceres although the official name of the stamp is «Republic». The stamp n°1 of the Yvert et Tellier catalogue is the 10c bistre with the effigy of Ceres. It was issued in 1850, which is special because the first stamp issued is listed as N°3. It is the 20c bearing the same face of Ceres. (10)



7



8



9



10



3

Those small coins weighing you down may soon become a source of income!

Several countries in Europe have already announced that they will stop producing 1 and 2 cent coins. Some, like Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Hungary, already abandoned them a long time ago. Italy followed suit in 2018 and Belgium in 2019.



1

In some countries, such as Belgium, rounding rules came into effect recently, further speeding up the disappearance of small coins.

The reason for removing the coins in question is that they cost as much or even more to produce than they are worth. Because of this, it's highly likely that the rest of Europe will see things the same way in the medium term.

The European Commission had already planned to get rid of the small coins in 2013, but had to backtrack because people saw it as just another way to increase inflation. However, the

debate is still ongoing and countries are increasingly getting rid of them.

Some examples of the coins sold on Delcampe

Here are three examples of coins recently sold on Delcampe, for which the price has increased by more than 1000% due to supply and demand

- This 2 cent Belgian coin sold for €35. (1)
- This 1 cent Andorran Coin sold for €5. (2)
- This 1 cent Monaco coin sold for €33. (3)

And this is likely just the beginning. Before getting rid of your loose change, give some thought to these coins, or collect them. I'm sure that you already have a solid start in your wallet and at the bottom of your pockets!



2

Some figures about Delcampe

More than 660,000 coins for sale

More than 417,000 banknotes for sale

1,275,000 items already sold

1,054 coins subcategories

1,008 banknotes subcategories





Starting your postcard collection

There are many postcard collectors at Delcampe and their collections are extremely varied. Are you thinking of starting a collection too? Here are a few ideas to help you choose a topic.



Colour or no colour?

It's an important first question. It will determine whether you will collect old, semi-modern or modern postcards... Based on what you decide, you will have more or less postcards available to you.

An inspiring place...

At Delcampe, we noticed a long time ago that most collectors start by collecting postcards that show a place they love the way it used to be. It may be a village or the town where they grew up or their favourite holiday

spot. Many postcard fans began with places they are familiar with.

Later they sometimes choose places they don't know but have a direct link to: related to their family name or their first name...The place doesn't matter, as long as it has some meaning for you and leads to discoveries.

Thousands of subjects

Postcard collecting isn't limited to places. There are many other possibilities: forgotten trades, famous people, means of transport, a period, science, cooking and sports related

cards...up to you to find the subject you have the greatest affinity for.

Illustrator postcards

Some postcard collectors choose an illustrator. There are quite a few big-name ones like Kirchner (read the article about him on page 16), Mucha, Peynet... Whose postcard illustrations are loved by many fans. Once again, it's a matter of preference. It's up to you to choose a subject you really like... If you choose a known illustrator, remember to consider your budget, which will quickly take off, because many postcards are issued in very limited series, which makes them rare... and expensive.

Events

Many collectors also choose postcards related to events. They collect greeting cards or competition or event postcards. Again, there are many options available. We recommend that you limit the subjects of your collection from the start, based on your preferences and your budget.

Printers

A few postcard collectors start with this topic. However, many come to it sooner or later when they start to specialise. Many small printers have produced little jewels in the past. The advantage of postcard collecting is that, in addition to being a fun pastime, the collec-

tion can also become a feature of your interior design! The more time you spend on it, the more you'll want to know about your collection and the more you'll want to complete it by finding new postcards on your subject. You can find them at fairs and on Delcampe, of course. The site has more postcards than any other in the world. It's your turn to choose among thousands of postcards that will give you something to dream about!

On the previous page

Postcard - train accident in Namur in 1929.

Colorized postcard about friendship.

On this page

Postcard - Illustrator: Mucha.

Postcard - Antwerp 1860.

Some figures about Delcampe!

More than 53 million postcards for sale on Delcampe!

More than 16 million cards have already been sold on Delcampe.

There are 9,269 categories of postcards





Femininity in Raphaël Kirchner's postcards



A contemporary of Alfons Mucha, Raphaël Kirchner also left his mark on the postcards of La Belle Époque. His beautiful women are still thrilling collectors today.

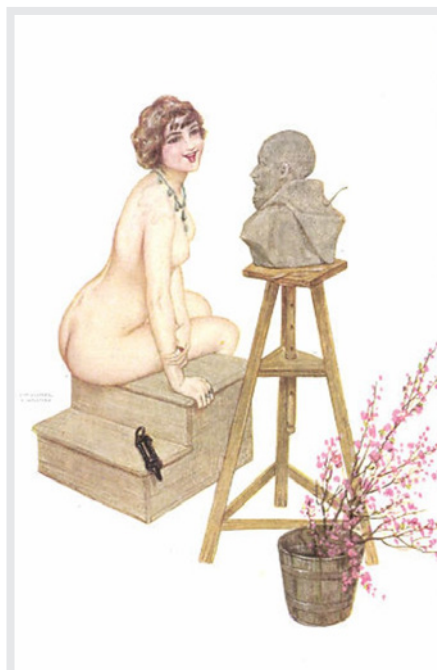
Raphaël Kirchner was born in Vienna in 1875 where he studied before moving to Paris in 1900. He worked for illustrated periodicals, including "La Vie Parisienne". It was during this time that he created his first series of postcards featuring Japanese art de vivre. His "Geisha" and "Mikado" series still get rave reviews today. However, Kirchner made his

name by taking things a little further, creating mildly erotic postcards. "The Kirchner Girls" featured women wearing fewer and fewer clothes...and the public loved them!

Kirchner also took part in advertising campaigns for the spirit Byrrh and the Lubin perfume house among others.

After 1910, Kirchner set off to conquer the Anglo-Saxon world.

Byrrh's postcard drawn by Raphael Kirchner.
Kirchner's postcard - lady in profile.



Kirchner's postcard - Young girl posing with a pig.

Postcard - « The Irreverent Model » by Kirchner.

Postcard - « La mer fleurie » by Kirchner.

Kirchner's postcards - 3 cards of the 539 series.

Postcard - Crowned dancer, drawn by Kirchner.

He left Paris for London then crossed the Atlantic for New York. He first worked as a costume designer then as an illustrator for the theatre. However, he will always be remembered for the "Girls" he created for the Weekly magazine. He died on 2 August 1917 following an appendicitis operation. However, his women are with us forever!

Some figures about Delcampe

Kirchner's most sought-after cards are from his «Stained Glass Art» series...

There are more than 3,200 Kirchner cards for sale on Delcampe.

More than 5,000 Kirchner cards have already been sold.



Photography

What do you know about stereoscopy?



It is neither a country nor a disease, but the set of techniques used to reproduce a perception of relief from two flat images.



Some figures about Delcampe

More than 52,000 items for sale

More than 20,000 items sold

One of the rarest pictures is an old photo of China which sold for 656€.

Stereoscopy is currently very popular, although the term is replaced by 3D animation. Because that's all it is! While 3D cinema is quite recent, stereoscopy dates back to long before this adaptation of the process.

In Lille, for example, it is possible to admire two drawings by Jacopo Chimenti made in the 16th century in order to perceive the relief.

Soon after the invention of photography, the idea of creating relief photography with two images was born.

The stereoscopic device

The first stereoscopic device called a «stereo device» was created in 1849. Its specificity is to bring together the two chambers separated by a vertical median partition. They are very rare because at the time, this type of device was not produced in series. The first stereo device to be truly commercialized dates back to 1893. This is Jules Richard's Vérascopie.

From then on, photographic techniques will evolve over the decades as these cameras create more and more illusion.

Stereoscopic photos are in vogue!

Photos of famous monuments, people or historical moments, these double photos are nowadays very popular with collectors. I must say that they have a certain charm! Well, look at this!

Three photos that sold at a high price in 2019 on Delcampe

Collectors of old photographs don't hesitate to pay a high price to obtain rare pictures. You can see this by looking at the items that have already been sold. Among these, here are three that have reached high prices for different reasons:

The first is a picture of a Chinese pagoda from the mid 19th century. Given the distance that separates

Left page
Stereoscopic photo of a woman with a balloon.
Gallus stereoscopic camera dating from 1918.

On this page
Stereoscopic photo, China.
Stereoscopic photo, dog team





China from Europe, this photo edited by Louis Le Grand was spectacular at the time. It sold for nearly 270€ on Delcampe.

The second photo represents a carriage in front of the Louvre. Sold at a little over 225€, it aroused the interest of collectors of historical monuments or Paris. Many of them fought to get this exceptional picture.

The third represents the painter Gabriel Loppé and his family in Chamonix. It is of interest to lovers of the painter as well as to stereoscopy and Chamonix collectors. It is also a testimony of life in the middle of the 19th century. This photo was sold at auction for 200€.

There are not only rare and expensive photos. Other photos sold for less than one euro. Of course, it all depends on the subjects you choose!

**Want to admire these pictures?
Many pictures can be found on
Delcampe!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Colorized stereoscopic picture
Stereoscopic picture, New York City, Underwood and Underwood Publishers
Stereoscopic viewer





1



2



3



Digitabulist, who are you ?



Collection of porcelain floral thimbles.
Antique silver thimble.

A digitabulist collects thimbles. This small and very old object dates back to the Middle Ages. It is a case to protect the tailor's fingers. The majority of thimbles are made of metal and are studded on the outside. There are also thimbles made of ivory, porcelain or even bone. They can cover the whole finger.

Thimble collectors can collect in different ways. Either they collect old thimbles. In this case, they will be interested in metal or ivory thimbles, not decorated porcelain thimbles. They will appreciate the irregularities in the contours of the thimble, signs of a probable hand-made manufacture, as it was the case for thimbles before 1800. The size of the thimble also seems to be a good indicator, as old thimbles are not as wide. It would indeed seem that the tailors of the time had thinner fingers than today! Of course, they will be very interested in beautiful antique chiselling and noble metals.

Other collectors have chosen porcelain thimbles. These are more modern and date at best from the 18th century. The budget of this collection is much less important. There are many designs, either painted on the thimbles or modifying their aspect. The advertising thimble appeared in the 20th century. It can be found in several collections.

If you too would like to start a thimble collection, don't hesitate to narrow down your subject as there are thousands of different designs and styles!

Discover them on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Some figures about Delcampe

More than 3,600 thimbles are for sale on Delcampe

More than 3,100 items have already been sold



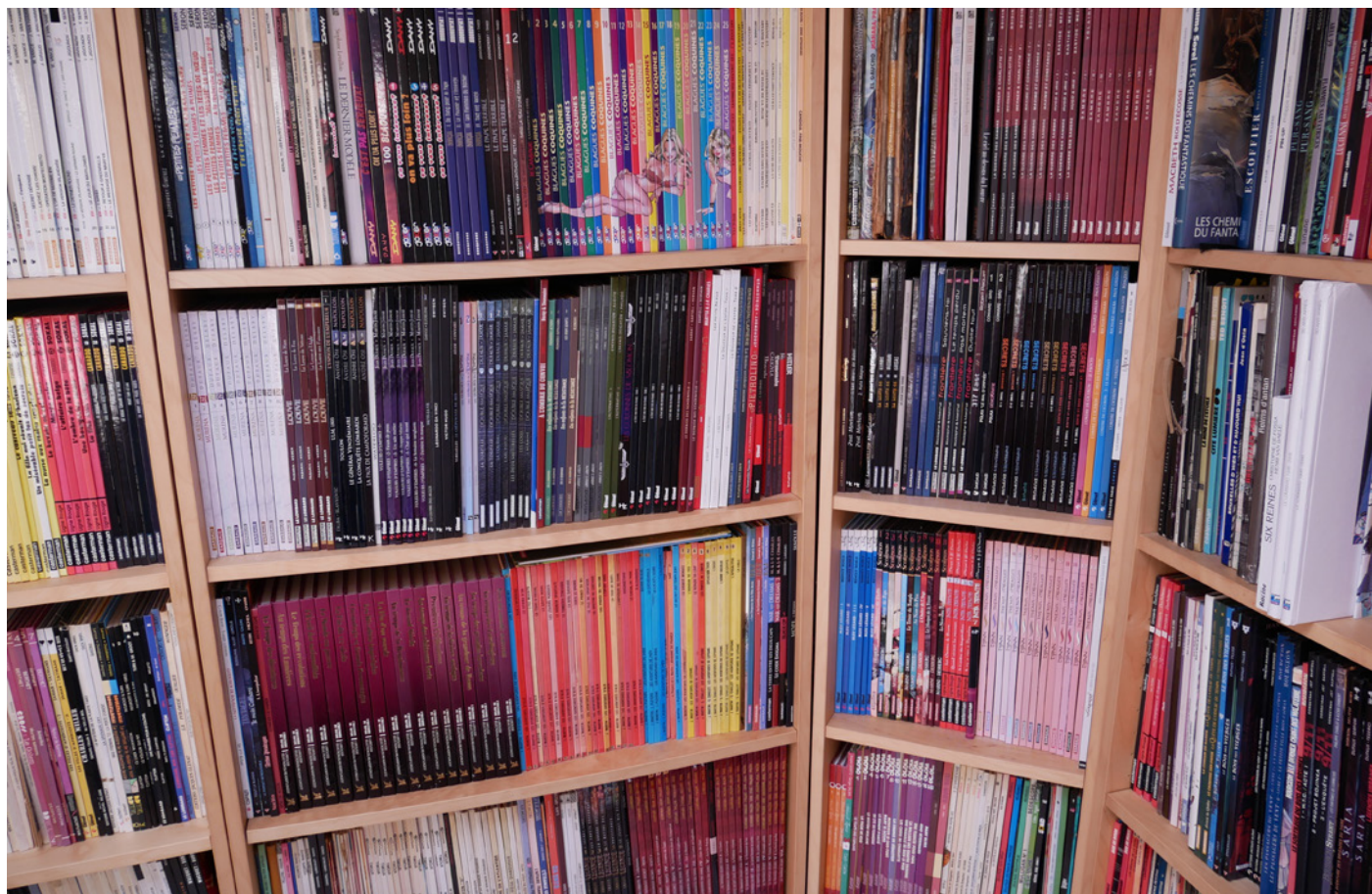
Golden thimble.

Collection of porcelain thimbles on the theme of animals

Silver Thimble.

Stone-encrusted elephant thimble

Antique thimble, ring.



First edition or not?

You've probably heard that a first edition Hergé was sold for over €10,000 by an auction house... Amazing! However, before trying to sell your comic books on Delcampe or through an auction house, it's important to know if you really have a first edition or not...

What does "first edition" mean?

The term "first edition" refers to the first printing of a comic book. In the case of Tintin, it's hard to keep track of the editions because there have been so many of them! When a comic book is published, the first print run (first printing) is determined by the publisher based on feedback from salespeople who visit points of sale (book stores, supermarkets, etc.).

The print run, based on the comic book and its expected success, is generally between 3,000 and several hundred thousand books. Obviously, a first edition of a comic book written and drawn by unknown artists will not be published in the same quantities as the latest Asterix!

But, let's get back to our first editions. Many comic book collectors don't simply go out and buy

a copy of a comic book at their local supermarket. They want a first edition and are willing to pay the price. They will only buy the comic book in question if it's in very good condition. For example, a first edition Tintin comic book in very poor condition (very damaged, torn pages, etc.) will only command a few euros, whereas new it will be worth €10,000!

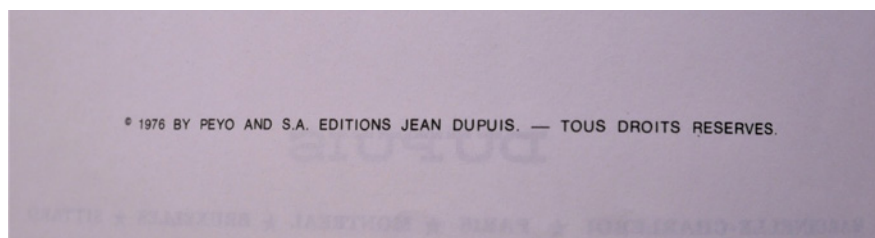
A few tips to identify a first edition...

In order to know if you're dealing with a first addition or not, the best approach is to look at the copyright. It's found on page 2 or at the end of the comic book. It provides the publisher's contact information and the ISBN number, which is a unique identification code for each album. It's comparable to a national ID number. There will also be a registration of copyright, and usually, the edition number. If it shows "first edition", you're good to go!

Today publishers, who have understood how important this is to collectors, always include it, but that wasn't the case before. However, in older comic books, the copyright shows the print year. For example, let's take a look at "Le lutin du bois aux roches" (The Goblin of Rocky Wood). The copyright date is 1976. However, if you enter the title on the Internet, you'll immediately see that it was first published in 1956. You're obviously not dealing with a first edition.

How can you know what editions are worth or get more information about what's available?

The BDM catalogue, updated every year, may be helpful. However, it tends to pump up prices, like most catalogues. A website like Delcampe will give you a more realistic idea about prices by looking at items that have already sold. You will be able to easily identify a comic book like yours and see what it actually sold for.



Copyright of the comic book "Miss Charity", 1st edition, Editions rue de Sèvres.

Copyright of the comic book "The Goblin of Rocky Wood", Editions Dupuis.

Copyright of the comic book "Ma fille, Mon enfant", 1st edition, Editions Bamboo.

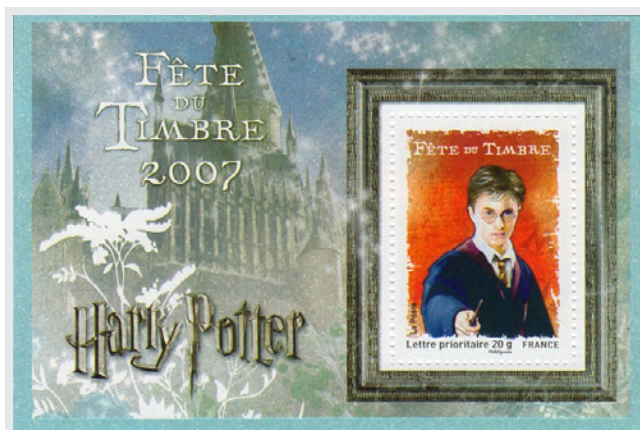


Ten examples of collections related to stamps

You sometimes hear that stamp collecting is a dusty occupation that is no longer of any interest to anyone. At Delcampe, we are particularly well placed to know that this isn't true! I would even go a step further and say that many modern collections go hand in hand with stamp collecting. Stamp collecting committees are smart. They understood a long time ago that sticking strictly with an audience of stamp collectors was rather limiting. That's why they have issued many collector stamps related to subjects that are collected separately.

Stamp collecting and the cinema

A few major films have their own stamp issues, like Harry Potter and Star Wars, for example! But they aren't the only ones. Many film posters and actors have been featured on stamps.



Stamp collecting and comic books

Comic book characters have long been featured on stamps. In France the “fête du timbre” has celebrated the theme several times in the past.



Stamp collecting and video games

The leading characters of video games are also included in stamp collections. From the Mario Bros to Lara Croft to retro gaming: a very modern collection linked to a much more traditional one.



Stamp collecting and music

Contemporary and classical composers and singers have long been found in the albums of stamp collectors! A music-based stamp collection can be extensive because there are so many choices available.



Stamp collecting and sport

Every international sports event has its stamps. The same applies to stamp collecting clubs and societies which specialise in this theme! Regardless if you're a football, rugby, cycling or Olympic Games fan, the choices are endless!



Left page

Great Britain 2019, Star Wars stamps.

France 2007, Harry Potter Collector sheetlets issued on the occasion of the Fête du timbre (Stamp Day)

On this page

France 2003, Lucky Luke stamps issued on the occasion of the Fête du timbre (Stamp Day)

Ireland 2016, Stamps on the theme of retro gaming.

Germany 1926, stamp with the effigy of the composer Beethoven

USA 2007, stamp with the effigy of Ella Fitzgerald.

Russia 1935, stamp about tennis.

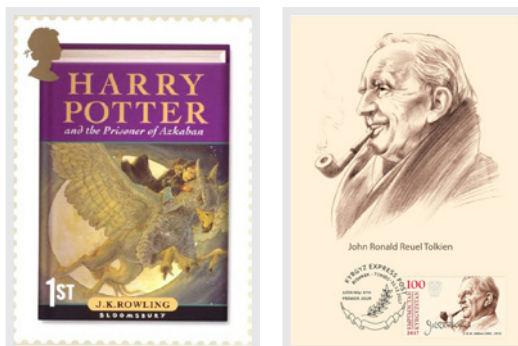
Stamp collecting and nature

Whether you collect flowers, mushrooms or animals, stamp collecting has many beautiful stamps for you.



Stamp collecting and literature

Most of the classics and best-known works also appear in stamps.



Stamp collecting and charities

Stamps have long been a source of income for good causes. As a result, many of them appear on stamps to raise funds. For example, the Red Cross is highly sought after. There is even a stamp collectors' group dedicated to the topic.



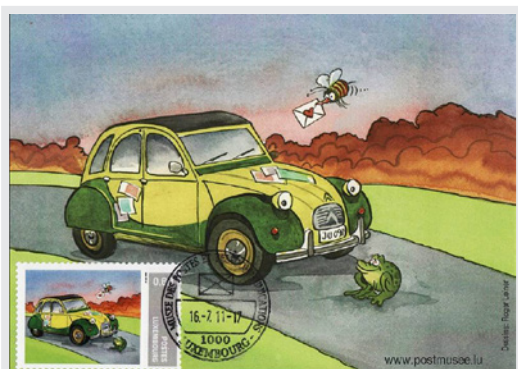
Stamp collecting and the plastic arts

There are endless statues, paintings and designs on stamps! You'll be pleasantly surprised! Just go to the Art in Stamps section of the Delcampe Philately Magazine to get an idea!



Stamp collecting and transport

Whether you collect trains, cars, boats, etc., you'll be spoilt by stamp collecting!



- China 1964, peony stamp.
- Belgium 1962, Europa tree stamp.
- Great Britain 2007, "Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban" stamp.
- Kyrgyzstan 2017, Tolkien maximum card, cancellation: 31-12-2017.
- Luxemburg 2017, 2CV maximum card, cancellation: 7/11/2017.
- French 2009, Red Cross Stamps.
- Central African Republic 2017, sheet of stamps issued on the occasion of Van Gogh's 165th birthday.

This list is far from exhaustive! There's no doubt that, regardless of the subject of your collection, there will be at least one stamp of interest to you!

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When Emperor Trajan used coins for propaganda...



Whether they're Roman or other, ancient coins often have a special history. During the reign of Emperor Trajan, they were used as propaganda tools. In this article dedicated to numismatics, we want to tell you about the aureus, sesterces and other gold and silver coins used to send messages to the population.

Messages to the population on coins

Trajan was one of the emperors to mint the most coins. One reason for this was the devaluation of Roman coinage in AD 107. At the time, he decreased the purity of the silver in the denarius, which enabled him to issue many more. Trajan used money as a propaganda tool. He had his first coins minted at the beginning of his reign. Their message stated that Trajan had received his power from the Senate.

In 103, he received the title of « best and most noble prince ».

From that time on, the title appeared on all of the new coins issued by the empire.

In 105, when he annexed Arabia Petrae, the coins stated « Arabia adquisita » to inform the population of the expansion of the Empire's territory. He used the same process for coins from 116 to 117, when Armenia and Mesopotamia were annexed.]

Laurent Schmitt of www.cgbfr.com, wrote an excellent study about Trajan's aureus in April 2014. Trajan carries an aegis on his left shoulder. This goat skin, which covers his shoulders, is



Aureus Trajan with Laurel wreath.

Tail of a dupondius bearing the words « Senatus Populus que Romanus ».

Tail of a sesterce bearing the words « optimi principi ».

also a propaganda symbol. Note that the aegis is often enhanced with the face of Medusa. For those who don't know: The Gorgon Medusa had the power to instantly turn to stone anyone who looked at her. Wearing the aegis and decorating coins was a way to express invulnerability from enemies. That was the case for an aureus from 104, the period during which Trajan and the Roman army are at the heart of the Dacian Wars. A coin symbolises the imminent victory of the invulnerable Emperor Trajan over Decebalus, king of the Dacians.

Who was Emperor Trajan?

Marcus Ulpius Traianus was born on 18 September 53. Around the year 75, he married Pompeia Plotina, aka Plotina. She had quite a bit of influence over his political decisions.

He became known during the reign of Domitian, of the Flavian dynasty (son of Vespasian). Trajan had concurrent political and military careers.

When Domitian, who was losing his mind, was assassinated in 96 without a successor, Nerva, a 65-year-old senator, very old for the time, acceded to the throne. He did not have a successor either.

At the time, Trajan was the governor of Germania. He quelled rebellions in the name of the Emperor and was very popular with his men. He was proposed as the successor to Nerva. The Senate was split between him and Marcus Nigrinius, one of Domitian's generals. He was the highly decorated governor of Syria, but didn't

have Trajan's noble background. Nerva chose Trajan, whom he adopted in 97. Trajan became emperor in 98. However, he did not return to Rome immediately. On the contrary, he stayed another two years in Germania to consolidate the peace.

When he arrived in Rome in 99, Trajan made a big promise to the Senate: no senators could be executed without a trial. This was a new concept, because many previous emperors had not bothered with procedure.

Trajan was renowned as a conquering emperor. He took part in the Dacian Wars which brought the Empire prestige and a great deal of resources. He also annexed Arabia Petrae. At the end of his reign, he annexed Armenia and Mesopotamia.

In addition to the annexations, Trajan also did a great deal to expand the city of Rome. He improved the Italian road network and built or expanded several major ports, aqueducts, baths and the Forum.

He was also praised for his social policy, for which his wife Plotina had significant influence. He took care of the poorest citizens and made taxation more equitable in Rome.

Romans remembered Trajan as one of their best emperors. On his death in August 117, following a stroke, his great-nephew and adopted son Hadrian became emperor. On his ascension to the throne, he organised a posthumous triumph and the Senate elevated Trajan to the rank of god.

Some figures about Delcampe

20,000 ancient coins for sale.

15,000 coins already sold.

15,000 Roman coins for sale

Ancient coins from 1€



Dupondius of Trajan bearing the aegis.
Denarius with the effigy of Plotinus.



Old-time trades?

Discover them with postcards!

Technological developments have sounded the death knell for many professions. Grinder, clog maker or lamplighter are some of them. Postcards enable us to rediscover these forgotten jobs carried out by talented craftsmen. Let's discover these old-time trades with postcards!



Lamplighter

This is a profession which is no longer relevant today and which nevertheless had its heyday at the end of the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th.

When Saint-Exupéry depicts this astonishing character on the fifth planet in his book «The Little Prince», he writes poetically: « When he lights his street lamp, it is as if he brought one more star to life, or one flower. When he

puts out his lamp, he sends the flower, or the star, to sleep. That is a beautiful occupation. And since it is beautiful, it is truly useful.»

The lamplighter appeared during the industrial revolution at the end of the 17th century. The function was initially to light lanterns with candles. Street lamps appeared in Paris in 1766, a century later. They would be the invention of the abbot Matherot de Preigny and Mr Bourgeois de Châteaublanc.

At the beginning, the streetlight was initially lit with oil, before switching to gas lighting around 1820. The job of street lighter, although demanding because it was subject to bad weather and was exhausting, was generally a complementary activity. Indeed, the tours, at dawn and at dusk, did not take up a full day.

This old-time trade died out with the advent of electric lighting. As early as 1878, on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition in Paris, several locations were equipped with this new type of lighting, which gradually replaced gas and thus lamplighters. The trade was permanently abandoned in the first half of the 20th century.

Clog Maker

Until the last century, it was not uncommon in the countryside to wear clogs. Before the introduction of clog-making machines, from 1919 onwards, a craftsman

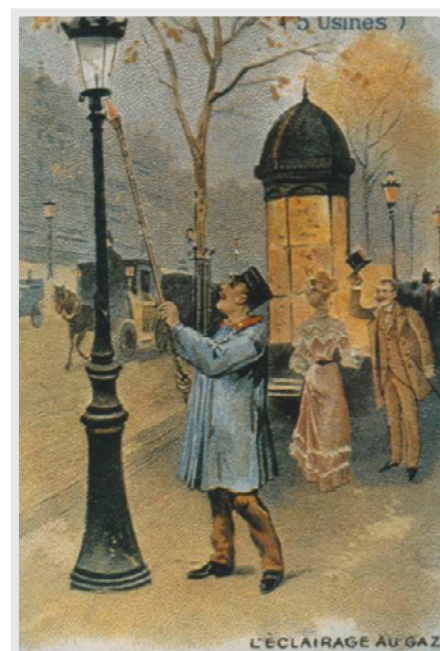
carried out this task. He was called the clog maker.

There were two types of clog makers: those who made the outside shape and those who carved the inside of the clog.

The clog maker started by cutting the wood into logs of the size intended for the clog. Then, with an axe, he cut the wood into the shape of the clog. Afterwards, the clog was carved without being damaged.

When a pair of clogs was regularly worn, it wore out in a maximum of two months. To make them last longer, the soles were often reinforced.

Currently, there are still a few clog makers, but it is a disappearing craft as clogs have been replaced by shoes.



On the previous page

Postcard - Bear tamer in Ariège.

Postcard – Lamp lighter

On this page

Postcard – Illustration of a lamplighter

Postcard – Clog maker

Postcard – Family of clog makers



1



Postcard – Travelling grinder
 Postcard - Pyrenean bear tamer
 Postcard – Town grinder

Grinder

It's a very old trade. It is said to date back to the 14th century. The work of the grinder consisted in sharpening knives, scissors or daggers using a grinding wheel. The grinder travelled from village to village with his equipment in order to sharpen cutting utensils.

Initially carrying his grindstone on his back, he then switched to the wheelbarrow and then to the cart to facilitate transportation.

The guild of grinders was recognized in the 15th century. A few years later, it was joined by the guild of cutlers. Their patron saint is Saint Catherine.

The profession of grinder lived on until the 20th century, when knives started to be made of better quality steel, no longer requiring regular sharpening.

Therefore, their cries and the noise of the metal on the grindstone which animated the villages as they passed through, became a thing of the past.

Bear tamers

A trade that was already talked about in the Middle Ages, the bear tamer had his best years in the 19th century. The concept consisted of presenting a bear in the village square. The bear tamer is one of the so-called travelling entertainers.

His origin comes, as you might expect, from the mountains. When an adult bear was killed, it was not uncommon for humans to become fond of the cubs and develop a strong relationship with them. This is how the profession of bear tamer developed. There was even a school for bear tamers in Ariège. The reputation was such that some bear tamers were exported to America. But the trade was far from being only French. It also developed in Italy, Germany or in the Balkan countries, to the delight of villagers who were amazed by wild animals that were both frightening and well-trained.



Town criers or town drums

Ancestors of the media, the function of the town crier is very old. In fact, it dates back to Roman antiquity. His task was to go through the squares of the cities in order to transmit information orally thanks to his cry: "Notice to the population". His announcements were often preceded by a few drum beats. The function of town crier was often assumed by the village policeman if he could read and was greatly facilitated by the appearance of the bicycle. The city drums officiated in some villages until the 1950s, spreading information from square to square!

Oyster breeders

Since Roman antiquity, oysters have been among the dishes appreciated by people. As these oysters came from the Gaul, in order for them to arrive fresh in Rome, it was necessary that they could be stored in tanks supplied with sea water. As early as the first century BC, the Roman Sergius Orata launched the first oyster culture in order to facilitate the supply. However, this practice was abandoned in the 5th century when the Barbarians invaded the Roman Empire.

In France, it was long believed that oyster beds would be inexhaustible. It was only in the middle of the 19th century that new oyster beds were created to keep them out of reach of predators. The workers in these oyster beds were often women, the famous oyster breeders who wore wide-soled hooves to reduce the pressure of

their weight. The profession was abandoned in the 80's because oyster farming was no longer done on the ground.

Some figures about Delcampe

More than 119,000 cards are for sale in this category.

The most expensive card sold in this category represents a grinder.

This year's top-selling card in this category represents a badger hunter.

Postcard – Oyster breeders in Arcachon.

Postcard – Town drums





Collecting Barbie

Having just celebrated her 60th birthday, Barbie has given herself a facelift by appearing for the first time on the big screen played by an actress! So it made perfect sense to devote an article to the world's most famous doll.



Set of Barbies.- Barbie 1962.- Ken 1961.



Marketed since 1959 by the Mattel firm, Barbie has seduced billions of little girls. Having practiced thousands of professions, owning clothes by great designers or representing famous people, there are different ways to collect Barbie! Barbie's story begins with a plagiarism. In 1945, Harold Matson and Elliot Handler founded Mattel, a toy manufacturing company. In 1956, while the Handler family was on holiday in Switzerland, Barbara, the daughter of the couple, asked for a doll, the Bild Lili. This German doll was an adult, and the little girl grew up with this toy. This doll inspired Mattel to create his own, which they named Barbie, short for Barbara, in tribute to the Handlers' daughter.

It is on March 9, 1959 that Mattel presented Bar-



bie at the American International Toy Fair in New York. The success was there and it was only the beginning!

The German firm tried to assert its rights but faced with the giant Mattel, it ended up accepting a financial proposal and went bankrupt a few years later.

If the first Barbie wore a black and white swimsuit, to better be seen on the first televisions that were not in colour yet, Mattel quickly understood the full potential of products derived from the doll. Clothes provided infinite possibilities. Barbie could be blonde, brunette or redhead (from 1961). Ken, Barbie's boyfriend also appeared in 1961. He was named after Kenneth, Barbara Handler's brother. In 1964, Barbie's little sister Skipper was added to the dolls, as well as Christie, the first black Barbie, in 1970.

From there, anything became possible! Ethnic Barbies (Japanese, Indian...), Christmas limited editions (since 1986), Barbies featuring celebrities (Lady gaga, Marilyn Monroe or Cindy



Barbie of colour. - Holliday Doll Barbie. - Dorothy Barbie from The Wizard of Oz. Wonder Woman Barbie.



Lauper...) or even princesses and queens (Marie-Antoinette, Lady Diana...) or Barbies dressed by great fashion designers (Givenchy, Dior, Versace...).

Barbie keeps up with the times. The new dolls are moving away from the perfect woman with big breasts and a slim waist. A fleshy «Curvy» Barbie has been added to the list, as well as a non-gendered Barbie and a doll with vitiligo, which was introduced in December 2019.

There is no doubt that the doll that makes her third generation of children dream has many more years to come. Even though sales have tended to decline in the face of cheaper competitors, Barbie remains the leader in her market. In addition to dolls, there are many other products for little girls: from DVDs to cushions, bicycle helmets, piggy banks and T-shirts, Mattel has taken full advantage of the incredible opportunities offered by the doll with the angelic smile!

Discover the Barbies for sale on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Audrey Hepburn Barbie.

Marilyn Monroe Barbie.

Ken Priscilla Barbie and Elvis Presley.

Some figures about Delcampe

More than 2000 Barbie items are for sale on Delcampe.

The most expensive Barbie sold on Delcampe is a Barbie from the 60's.

In 1964, Mattel created a board game Barbie Queen of Debutantes!



Yesterday's classics



We probably read them as cheap paperbacks at school when we were younger... But, this is different! A beautiful old edition adds charm to reading the classics. Book lovers will all agree on that! What's more, a beautiful library full of old books is an exquisite way to decorate. In this article, we'll try to inspire you to rediscover the classics!

Notre-Dame de Paris 1850 edition, engraving and title page.

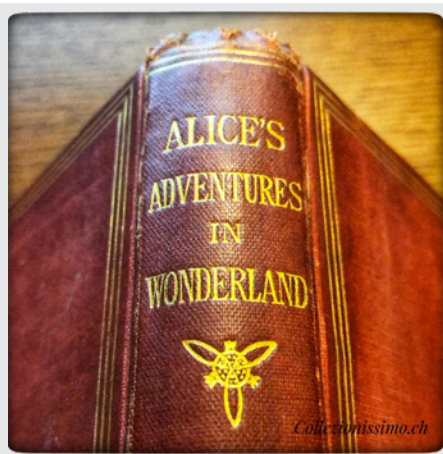
Bookbinding of the 1850 edition of Notre-Dame de Paris by Editions Perrotin.

Some figures about Delcampe

More than 2 million items are to be discovered in the books, comics and magazines category.

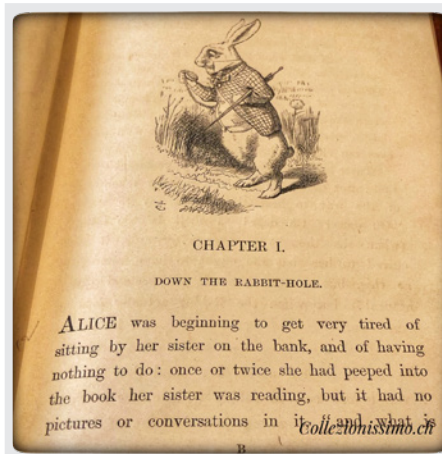
The most sought-after items are old books and comic books in first editions.

540,000 literary works have already been sold on Delcampe.



Alice in Wonderland

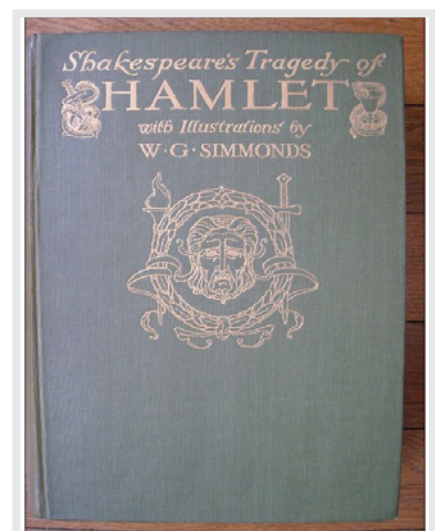
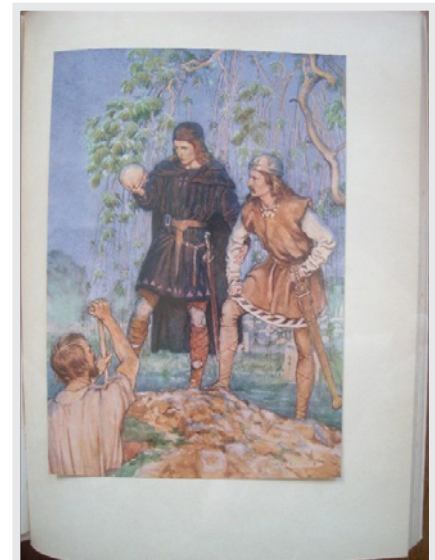
"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" was first published in 1865. Written by Lewis Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, this novel tells the story of Alice (inspired by Lewis Carroll's daughter, who had the same name) who discovered a fantasy world where she lived incredible adventures. While a first edition of Lewis Carroll's book in good condition is valued at way over €1 million (the latest copy sold for €1.5 million in 1998!), there are many other quality editions available. Here is an 1872 edition, published seven years after the first edition. It sold on Delcampe for CHF 550 last year. Now it's the pride and joy of a book lover who surely appreciates the engravings and the beautiful leather cover.



Hamlet

Another English literature classic! Hamlet is one of William Shakespeare's most famous works. The play was first published in 1603. Hamlet tells the story of a Danish prince whose murdered father appears to him in a dream to urge him to seek revenge. Hamlet pretends to be mad to achieve his ends.

Shakespeare's play was inspired by a Danish legend: the story of Amleth, whose story is similar to the one by the English writer. In addition, at the same period, the Frenchman François de Belleforest also adapted the Danish legend as a play. Although History has generally forgotten him, the subject also brought him success. The original Shakespeare edition was published by the booksellers Nicholas Ling and John Trundell. This version of the book is, unsur-



Book spine - Alice's Adventure in Wonderland, 1872 edition.

Front page of the novel Alice's Adventure in Wonderland with an engraving of the white rabbit, 1872 edition.

Colour engraving from the edition of Hamlet illustrated by W.G. Simmonds.

Bookbinding of this early 20th century Hamlet edition.

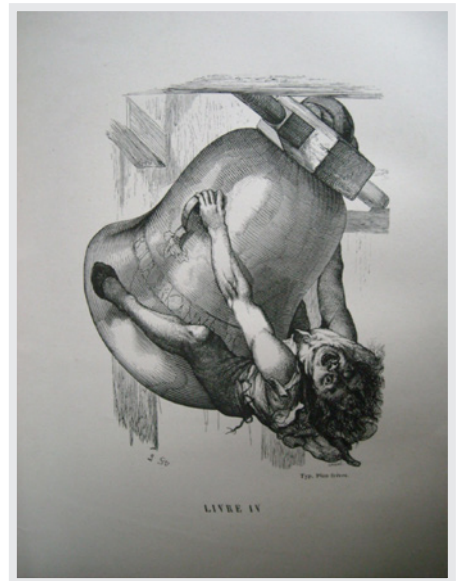
prisingly, impossible to find. For our part, we wanted to present a version from the early 20th century to you. It's illustrated by W.G. Simmonds and was sold on Delcampe for €20. The buyer now enjoys a nice leather-bound edition with very beautiful illustrations of the tragedy.

Notre-Dame de Paris

Did you know that Victor Hugo translated a large portion of Shakespeare's works into French? This is a great transition to introduce another literary classic: Notre-Dame de Paris. Victor Hugo's novel was published in 1831 by Charles Gosselin, in an abridged version. The first unabridged version was published the following year by Eugène Renduel.

The story of Notre-Dame de Paris takes us to Paris in 1482 into the life of Quasimodo, the bell ringer of the most famous cathedral in France and that of the Bohemians, among them the beautiful Esmeralda, who meet at the Court of Miracles.

In this case too, the beautiful version we found on Delcampe isn't a first edition, but a second edition from 1850 published by Perrotin. Victor Hugo's famous novel is illustrated with magnificent wood engravings which enliven reading! The novel sold for €45 on Delcampe.



A Good Little Devil

The Countess of Ségur's writings are young adult classics and many of us have read "Un bon petit diable" (A Good Little Devil)! Published in 1864 and 1865 as a serialised novel, it was first published in complete form by Hachette in 1865.

The story starts in 1842 at Madame Mac'Miche's, a stingy Scottish widow who has taken in her nephew Charles (and, especially his inheritance)! But Charles is no pushover and he becomes a master of dirty tricks!

The version we want to show you is from 1938. It's a nice illustrated hardback version which sold on Delcampe for €35. A first edition would cost three times as much.



Engravings representing Quasimodo in the 1850 edition of Notre-Dame de Paris. Bookbinding of the 1938 edition of «Un bon petit diable» by the Comtesse de Ségur.

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