



## RING ROAD ANTIQUE CENTRE COLLECTABLES BUYING GUIDE

Antique shopping can be overwhelming for novices, and sorting the real deal from junk can be a frustrating experience. Dealers scour cities and the globe to find unique and authentic collectibles, and you can too. But before you head out for that daylong tour of garage sales, flea or antique markets, consider the following tips.

### **Research**

Take the time to do your homework so you can find the right antique for you. Developing your eye is about education - knowing your budget, knowing what you want, and finding a reputable dealer. Is it really Victorian, or does it look Victorian; is it really Art Deco, or does it look Art Deco. If it's a watch, are all the parts original? Developing your eye also means finding a dealer you can trust.

### **Quality Counts**

The perfect antique or collectible just simply looks old, right? Not always the case - especially for anyone with a trained eye. Using rustic pieces to adorn your cottage walls is a great idea, but you want your prized possessions to have both intrinsic and monetary value. One of the important things is to buy quality - Buy the best item you can afford.

### **Condition Matters**

Don't be fooled by the notion that it's okay for an antique to be torn, chipped or cracked. That might mean skipping the garage sale and heading straight for an antique market or an established dealer.

### **Browse Often**

Antique shopping is fun so do it often, You're always trying to find the unusual piece - it could be a piece of jewelry, a chandelier, a piece of furniture, go around and look at different pieces to compare if the item is good. The more you look, the more you learn.

### **Taste for Texture**

Browsing and handling helps novice antique shoppers learn what to expect, and what to look for. You can feel by the texture it's a good quality piece. It's a matter of handling so many things - you learn. 'Wear' is also an important factor and can also help to determine the age of a piece.

### **Signature Sells**

Whether it's a painting or a china collection, you'll often find an artist or signature piece you like and wind up collecting it for the rest of your days. So look for those markings. Usually it's a sign of the real thing, but be sure to take the piece to an authentic dealer or appraiser. If you buy something that is signed then research for the signature and the artist.

### **Bargain Bounty**

It's an old adage: it's pricey so it must be valuable! Certainly, there's a reason why antiques are expensive, but don't get hung up on the price tag. Just because something cost a fortune doesn't necessarily mean it's the real thing. Look for bargains, you can find them! It's always nice to hunt for the right item, at the right price.

### **Appreciate Your Find**

There is no formula to antique shopping, you've got to find what you like and enjoy it, whether you discover it's rare or really rare. Many things will appreciate in value, many won't - buy it because you like it.

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