

CountryHome



PEDIGREED ANTIQUES AND COOL JUNK CAN BE FOUND AT THESE TOP SHOWS.

LOCATION: Texas
ROUND TOP ANTIQUES FAIR AND MARBURGER FARM ANTIQUE SHOW
Scour miles and miles of booths in these Texas towns for folk art, fine antiques, and the best junk around. September 28–October 2.
roundtexasantiques.com
roundtop-marburger.com

LOCATION: Massachusetts
BRIMFIELD ANTIQUE SHOW
Part antiques show, part flea market, this fair has something for everyone. September 7–12 in Brimfield.
brimfieldshow.com

LOCATION: California
PASADENA CITY COLLEGE FLEA MARKET
There is nothing fancy about this flea market, but you can score great junk and sometimes a bit of vintage Hollywood. It happens the first Sunday of every month.
pasadena.edu/fleamarket

LOCATION: Illinois
CHICAGO ANTIQUE MARKET
Shop for glitzy European glamour or skip over to the Indie Designer Market for funky junk. Last weekend of the month from May through September.
chicagoantiquemarket.com

LOCATION: New York
THE PIER ANTIQUES SHOW
Gaze at fine antiques or shop through surprising booths of jewelry, vintage clothing, and more. November 13–14.
stellashows.com

LOCATION: Tennessee
HEART OF COUNTRY
Inside the Gaylord Opryland Hotel, this is

what to collect now

THIS GUIDE TO PICKING HOT COLLECTIBLES WILL POINT YOU TO THE BEST. THE BOTTOM LINE? SEARCH FOR WHAT YOU LOVE.

An antique's value is measured by age, condition, and popularity. The most valuable antiques have beauty and say something about their creators or the era in which they were made. Here are three we like.

Our best friend is honored in cast-iron doorstops, carnival chalkware, porcelain figurines, and wood toys, *above left*. **HINT:** Condition, rarity, and workmanship determine the price. **COST:** Dog collectibles are available at every price, from \$25 for a chalk figurine to thousands of dollars for cast-iron statues. **DISPLAY:** Herd them onto a single shelf.

Native American bracelets, *above right*, are a classic favorite. "These bracelets are beautiful, one-of-a-kind, and entirely handmade," says Arizona dealer Deborah Begner. **HINT:** No silver was marked "sterling" before 1950. Walk away if someone says one with that marking is antique. **COST:** Some pawn bracelets can be found for around \$100 to \$200. An intricate, large-stone piece made of heavy sterling will set you back more than \$2,000. **DISPLAY:** Stack them on your arm. When you're not wearing them, mass them on a tray or stash them behind glass in a small cabinet.

Coin-silver flatware, *opposite*, was cast of melted silver coins from 1790 to 1870. Coin silver is 90 percent silver versus sterling's 92.5 percent. **HINT:** Learn specific patterns and stamps to know what you're getting. **COST:** A small piece



"When you wear this jewelry, people stop you to talk all the time. The intricate, handmade pieces clearly have a story to tell, and that's the best kind of collection."

—MARY EMMERLING, COUNTRY STYLE EXPERT