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SCOTTIE SAMPLER ARTICLE

by Lee Netzler

Who me? A collector? That was my initial reaction. What a surprise it is to find out that you may be something you didn't think you were.

When the term "Scottie memorabilia collector" was first applied to me, I really didn't think that the description fit. But, it did cause me to take a good look around, and at myself. I certainly don't have display cases full of figurines, or shelves overflowing with stuffed dogs and book ends, or walls hung solid with photos, buttons, ribbons, needlework, etc. But as you probably guessed, I do have some of those things. After 20 years of loving Scotties, wouldn't anyone have at least a few mementos? Well, I am no exception.

As a matter of fact, there is a large wooden pull-toy Scottie from my mom, and a 3 X 4 inch framed pen and ink drawing——obviously done in the '30's——from my sister. There are also a number of figurines and a couple of buttons and a few photos. There are even some book ends and a door stop. And my broad-brimmed western hat sports only one tack-pin of a you-know-who.

It was time for a closer examination. I discovered that almost all of my items are contemporary, none could be called "rare," and the majority of the pieces came to me as gifts. As I reviewed my Scottie keepsakes, I began to appreciate and to enjoy even more my years as a Scottie "enthusiast" (I'll confess to being a lot more comfortable with the label "enthusiast" than I am with "collector"). In any case, I finally had to admit that indeed there is a wee collection at my house.

When I stopped to consider the significance of my acquisitions, I found that I am not so much collecting Scottie trinkets as I am collecting Scottie memories. I do enjoy the rascals, and my first love is to spend time with them. But, I also began to realize that when this is not possible, my memories rank a close second in importance to me. The items I have assembled remind me of the times I've shared experiences with my 4-legged friends. I also found that this is how the "value" of my collection is fixed in my own mind.

As I read the articles in "*The Scottie Sampler*" and witness the rapid growth of "Wee Scots," it seems clear that we collectors share, first of all, a love for Scotties. This is our common earth. Beyond that, we specialize or generalize, impose or ignore dollar limits, search for everyday or rare pieces, and sometimes we even make our own memorabilia.

Me too! As several Scottie enthusiasts have done, I've tried to create my own "collectibles." I have applied the work from one of my other interests to my love for Scotties. I enjoy writing poetry, so it has been natural for me to occasionally write about dogs. The poems are my way to capture the same kinds of moments that are preserved in drawings, painting, photos, needlework,

sculpture, and so forth, by other Scottie admirers. On this point I have been fortunate enough to both enjoy my Scots and writing about them.

Finally, this opportunity to take a look at my own circumstances has been an informative experience. It was a surprise to find out that I actually am a collector after all. And it was delightful to discover what it is I really am collecting. Furthermore, it's rewarding to think that I may also be a genuine Scottie memorabilia contributor.

I hope these comments will help you to appreciate and to enjoy your own collection even more. I know that now I enjoy my Scottie things more, and it is from a new perspective—that is, from the viewpoint of a former "non-collector."

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Authors's Footnote:

When this article was published in *The Scottie Sampler* I decided that I really ought to start collecting some type of Scottie item. Being practical, I decided to limit my collecting efforts to one kind of item, something not too expensive, and I wanted it to have at least some sort of usefulness. After considerable thought about it, I remembered that my sister had sent me a Scottie rubber stamp as a "stocking stuffer" for Christmas a few months earlier. I realized that the Scottie stamp fit all of my requirements. It was a single item, inexpensive, and since I do a lot of correspondence, Scottie stamp impressions could be a useful addition to my letters and envelopes.

So, I started to collect Scottie stamps. I decided not to collect duplicates, or those which are identical likenesses but are different sizes or which face in the opposite direction. Considering those limitations, when I began I believed that as scarce as they had to be, if I ever managed to find a dozen before I died my heirs would have a huge success story to tell about my collection. Little did I know then!

"Fast forward" to the present time. Twenty-three years have passed. Unbelievably, my collection now includes 295 different Scottie stamps and we are still on the lookout for more.

NOTE: See photo below.

