

Aria

T E D D Y B E A R S

PAUL AND ROSEMARY VOLPP, WORLD FAMOUS BEAR COLLECTORS



Our introduction to the teddy-bear world happened over 20 years ago, in an enchanting store called The Teddy Bear Station in Yorba Linda, California. We were browsing, just killing time until a restaurant opened, when Rosemary was captivated by a blue bear in an aviator suit looking down from a shelf. The sales-woman came over and said, "If you like that bear, you'd better take it now. It's the last one in southern California, and there won't be any more".

Rosemary replied that she wasn't a bear collector. Famous last words! A friend who accompanied us to dinner kept teasing Rosemary and telling her she would regret not buying the bear for the rest of her life. Rosemary got so excited that she went back to the store between the main course and dessert and bought her. She was a North American Bear Company Amelia Bearhart. Although her original price was \$40, Amelias now sell for over \$1,000.



Paul caught bear fever, too, and then we were off and running to every bear store we could find. That was the beginning of a hobby that has taken the two of us all over the world. In a remarkably short time, Amelia became part of a collection of about 5,000 teddy bears, every description imaginable. We often say we don't know whether are bragging or complaining when we admit to the size of our collection.

But one thing is certain: because of the bears we have met unforgettable people, and this is a bonus of collecting.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

All you have between you and 'The Dark' is Bear.

— *Helen Thomson*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

When everyone else has let you down, there's always Ted.

— *Clara Ortega*



"Alfonzo" was commissioned by the Grand Duke of Russia for his daughter Princess Xenia Georgievna, and accompanied her on her visit to Buckingham Palace in London in 1914.



This teddy bear was designed by Dorothy Harwin of the north London firm Harwin & Co. as part of its World War I series of mascots, dressed in uniforms of the Allied Forces.