

# Surprising Passions

## The royal memorabilia collector



**57-year-old Jan Hugo's** passion is the British royal family. Jan, from **Hunter Valley, Australia**, has been collecting royal memorabilia since 1981 and has now collected over 10,000 pieces. The collection fills four rooms in her home, where she lives with her husband David (who calls himself her royal servant!). Jan says her passion started **by chance** when they were given a commemorative coin for Prince Charles and Diana's engagement. They have now spent over £100,000 on the collection and turned their house into a museum. David, (who has a passion of his own – he collects beer cans and has 5,800 of them!), has started a business taking tour groups round their home. Jan and David sometimes laugh at themselves, unlike many of the royal fans who visit the museum – these fans are often very serious about the Royals and complain if the images of the Queen, Charles, Camilla, Diana, William, Kate, etc. aren't **lifelike** enough. Jan's favourite piece is a doll of the newborn Prince George in 2013. There has been renewed interest in her collection since the latest royal weddings and births – as she says, the royal family is a **never-ending** story and this is good for business!



## The Coca-Cola can collector



**Davide Andreani, 44**, from **Pesaro in Italy**, is a world-famous collector of Coca-Cola cans. In his house and garage he has the largest collection of Coca-Cola cans in the world. He's been collecting the cans since he was 15, but his passion for them started when he was just five, and he was given his first can of Coke. He has now collected over 20,000 cans, and amazingly, each one is different. In 2013, Davide received the Guinness World Record award for the 'Largest Collection of Soft Drink Cans' and he still holds the title. His cans come from about 90 countries – but not Cuba and North Korea – the only two countries where Coca-Cola isn't sold.

His father travelled on business, and often brought unusual cans home from his trips. The first one was from Germany, in 1979, with the word 'Coca-Cola' translated into various languages. Davide has got many duplicates – this is useful when he wants to **swap** cans with other collectors. He uses his website to swap them and to search worldwide for the **rarest**, such as those made of gold and silver, often produced for special anniversaries. These are possibly his favourites and worth between \$400 and \$500 each!



## Two Barbie doll collectors



There are over 100,000 Barbie doll collectors worldwide, but **Bettina Dorfman, 58**, from **Duesseldorf, Germany** has the world's largest collection – over 17,000 dolls, worth nearly \$300,000! She has been collecting them since she was ten, when she was given a Barbie during a stay in hospital. She has Barbies all over her house and has a special room, called 'Barbie's Kingdom' for her favourite Barbies, including **an original one** from 1959 – the year Barbie was 'born' at the International Toy Fair in New York. She is now worth a possible \$5,000!

Bettina doesn't just collect the dolls, she's also a Barbie doctor. She runs a Barbie hospital in her kitchen and **repairs** broken dolls from all over the world. Bettina wanted her daughter, Melissa, to share her passion, but Melissa is more interested in table tennis.

And Barbie collectors aren't all girls. **Jian Yang, 33**, from **Singapore**, has over 6,000 dolls. His interest began when he was a little boy and **wasn't allowed** to have one. His passion grew as he grew, and he started to collect them. However, the Barbies have not been good for his love life – he believes that girlfriends worry about not being as beautiful as the dolls!

Amazingly, there's a National Barbie Day on March 9th!

