

MUSIC-RELATED MEMORABILIA ROCKS

On April 4, 2009 the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted its 2009 class. This class features a wide variety of musical artists, namely, Jeff Beck, Little Anthony & the Imperials, Metallica, Run-D.M.C. and Bobby Womack. To be eligible to be selected into the Hall, artists must have issued a first single or album at least 25 years before they were nominated.

No San Diego groups were included in this year's class, but San Diego has had its share of pop groups. The Cascades' "Rhythm of the Rain" was the third largest selling record in the world in 1963. Gary Puckett was a psychology major at San Diego City College before he and his band changed their name to the Union Gap. "Young Girl" and "Lady Willpower" both went to number one in 1968, the year that the group outsold the Beatles. And who can forget Rosie Hamlin of National City. Rosie and the Originals, a group that would sing on the San Diego beaches, took "Angel Baby" to number five in 1961.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum located on the shore of Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland, opened in September 1995. It is a six-floor pyramid structure, with exhibits of the history of rock, audio and video kiosks, and a myriad of costumes, instruments, posters, and rare recordings. It is located at 1 Key Plaza in Cleveland. The phone number is 888-764-7625, and the website is www.rockhall.com.

There are other record museums as well, possibly not as well known. The Experience Music Project is at 325 Fifth Avenue North, in Seattle. Its phone number is 877-367-5483 and the website is www.emplive.com. Other musical museums include the Motown Historical Museum in Detroit (313-875-2264), the America Jazz Museum in Kansas City (816-474-8463); www.americanjazzmuseum.com), and the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi (662-627-6820); www.deltabluesmuseum.org).

Despite the efforts of music museum curators, such as James Benke of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum, there is still plenty of rock and roll memorabilia available to collectors. Whether your musical preference is Tony Bennett, Harry James, Jimi Hendrix, James Brown, or even the Teddy Bears ("To Know Him Is To Love Him"), there is memorabilia to go around, usually through auctions, if you are willing to pay the price.

Some entertainers are indeed associated with certain clothing items. For example, granny glasses worn by John Lennon are notorious, as are Michael Jackson's sequined gloves, Elton John's spectacles, and Elvis Presley's cape.

If you have an opportunity to collect rock and roll memorabilia clothing, be cognizant of a few general collecting principles. First, try to obtain a Letter of Authenticity, or LOA. Also, try to find out the origin and source of the item, commonly called the provenance. And finally, be aware that the condition of the clothing is very important. If the piece is stained or damaged, the item's value will be dramatically affected. I would also suggest that you don't handle the item too often, or you might spill something on it, or damage it in some other way. However, I do have to admit that when I acquired a Nehru jacket owned and worn by George Harrison I let everyone in the office try it on.

The following will give you an idea of the approximate value of some rock and roll performers'

items. Keep in mind that most items will increase in value, especially if there are new releases, or re-releases, by the entertainer, or if they are still touring. Remember that value is determined by how much money people are willing to spend.

John Lennon -- Granny glasses, \$30,000-40,000

James Brown -- Stage outfit, \$12,000

Mick Jagger -- Silk tie, \$1500

Prince -- Complete stage outfit, including coat, trousers, handkerchief and boots, \$25,000

Little Richard -- Silk stage jacket with matching cape, \$5000

Elvis Presley -- Stage cape, \$18,000

Eric Clapton -- Turquoise leather stage shoes, \$3000

Marvin Gaye -- Brown velvet stage jacket, \$2100

Stevie Nicks -- Stage boots, \$2000

Roy Orbison -- Western-Style cream suit, \$2500

Cher -- Brown leather bomber jacket, \$1000

Signed clothing will cost even more.

Some rock and roll memorabilia collectors are more interested in items such as autographs, musical instruments, posters, and even records and albums rather than clothing.

The most common way to acquire a rare autograph is through a dealer or an auction. Autographs can sometimes be gotten by an in-person request, or through mail correspondence with the performer. By acquiring an autograph in person you will have no doubt of its authenticity. Hopefully, you can read the signature.

If you ever have an opportunity to attend a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction you might want to bring a pen and paper with you to snare some autographs. The induction ceremony is an ideal time to see some of your favorite performers.

Speaking of rock and roll, according to some people, the term "rock and roll" was first coined by deejay Alan Freed of Cleveland, Ohio. If you ever wondered why the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is in Cleveland, now you know.

EMAILS:

QUESTION #1: I am trying to find out if there is any value to newspaper clippings I have from the 1950s. Most are about the St. Louis Cardinals, OU Sooners, & Mickey Mantle. The most unique are about Mick. He grew up in Commerce, Ok, close to my hometown. The clippings are mostly of a personal nature, such as his trips back to Commerce to visit and the birth of his first child. The other clippings are from games I attended. All have been glued on to scrapbook pages. Any value?

ANSWER: Regarding your clippings, to be honest, unless there are some personal writings, they are not worth very much. If Mantle did write something to you, then you would have items of value.

QUESTION #2: Does having an inscription on a baseball such as "Dearâ€š ..." increase the value of the ball?

ANSWER: I do not think it increases the value of the item. I do not like inscriptions and try not to collect baseballs which have them, especially if my name is not in the inscription. Inscriptions only mean something to the person that the ball was signed for. However, if that is the only way to get a ball, then go for it.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

Easy: Who was the first major league baseball player to play all nine positions in one game?

Moderate: Which college men's basketball team won both the NIT and the NCAA tournaments in 1950?

Difficult: Which major league baseball franchise has the all-time highest winning percentage (not for one season, but all the years combined)?

TRIVIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE MARCH NEWSLETTER:

Easy: What was the original name of the Super Bowl?

World Championship Game

Moderate: After the 1956 season Jackie Robinson was traded from the Brooklyn Dodgers to the New York Giants. He decided to retire, but who was the player he was originally traded for?

Dick Littlefield

Difficult: Who was the last major league baseball player to play for all three New York teams, the Dodgers, Giants and the Yankees?

Sal Maglie