

## Generations

# Time to clean out our attics

**Y**es, it's almost spring (or is it more like summer as I write this with the AC on?) and it might be time to clean out our attics to see if they contain any treasures worth a bucket-load of cash to toy collectors.

A *Good Housekeeping* article written by Sarah Horne listed 40 high-in-demand collectibles, and I've picked out the best.

Still popular today, Beanie Babies can be found at many stores and online, but if you're lucky enough to have saved the Peanut Royal Blue Elephant, it's worth \$5,000. Because of a manufacturing error, only 2,000 were fabricated with a darker color than originally intended, and those lucky owners are holding the most collectible Beanie Baby in existence.

Prices vary, but those old, candy-less PEZ dispensers might be worth something more in years to come. In 2006, a dispenser known as the Astronaut B, created for the 1982 World's Fair, sold for \$32,000 on eBay. Other collectible dispensers include the

Mickey Mouse Soft Head dispenser, the 1955 Santa



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Claus Head dispenser, and the PEZ gun. I sure wish I hadn't thrown mine away throughout the years.

We all know and treasure those old Monopoly games (especially with the metal tokens such as the shoe and top hat), but an original, hand-drawn oil-cloth version of the game, made in 1933 and owned by the game's inventor, Charles Darrow, sold for \$146,500 at Sotheby's auction house in 2011, nearly double its expected price. Vintage versions from the 1930s have sold for over \$3,000, and limited editions sell for hundreds on eBay, so hang on to your version as it may be worth the price of a real hotel in the future.

What comic could possibly be worth \$3.2 million? Well, the most expensive comic ever sold on eBay was a 1938 edition in perfect con-

dition that went up for auction in 2014 and sold for that amazing price to an avid collector. It also happened to be the comic that first introduced Superman to the world, and there are fewer than 50 in existence.

Barbie may have recently undergone a makeover, but for some collectors, the classic, hourglass-shaped 1959 version will always be the one to treasure. Originals, complete with zebra-striped swimsuits and a sweeping up-do, retail from around \$8,000 to \$23,000.

Doll collectors adore Cabbage Patch Kids, created by Xavier Roberts in 1978, but one couple amassed over 5,000 dolls that they house in a custom-built Maryland museum, and the collection has been estimated at \$360,000.

First published in Japan in 1996, Pokemon trading cards still have a huge following, and a rare card, such as the mint-condition Pikachu, went on sale for \$100,000.

First marketed in 1967, Lite Brite allows children

to create glowing art by fitting small, colored plastic pegs into an illuminated board. Full sets go for well over \$100, and Lite Brite Cubes can sell for about \$350.

A Lionel Pennsylvania "Trail Blazer" train set sells for around \$1,100, but if you happen to find an original 1934 standard-gauge version, it could be worth as much as \$250,000.

Strawberry Shortcake and all her adorable friends with dessert-themed names were all the rage when the original dolls were released in the 1980s. If you happen to have one housed in its original box, and can part with it after all these years, the doll easily commands between \$400 and \$600.

Hasbro's G.I. Joe has been around since 1964 and remains a favorite. There's even an annual G.I. Joe convention and this year's 25th-anniversary celebration is June 21-24 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. There's plenty to do, and it's geared for the whole family. Check it out at

[www.gijoecon.com](http://www.gijoecon.com).

Vintage Joes and their accessories run a broad range in collector value, with enemy organization "Cobra" accessories among the most valuable: the "Missile Command Center" alone is priced at \$17,500, while some individual figures are set as high as \$10,000. A prototype G.I. Joe "Toy Soldier" made in 1963 sold on eBay for \$200,000 in 2003.

A "Star Wars" toy produced almost 40 years ago sold at auction in 2015 for \$25,000: a Luke Skywalker action figure from 1978, considered very rare because the lightsaber broke easily, so the toys were pulled from production. The action figure was part of Sotheby's "Return of the NIGO" online-only auction of "Star Wars" collectibles from Japanese designer and music producer NIGO. The collection sold out for \$502,200.

May the Force be with you in your attic hunt.

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