

Byers' Choice® Ltd.

COLLECTORS' CHRONICLE



Fall 1988

Volume I, Edition 1



VERY SPECIAL DELIVERIES

We can't wait for you to meet our most recent arrivals . . . several of the CAROLERS® are new mothers who have brought their little ones out carolling with them. Bundled up against the cold night air and held firmly in their mothers' arms, these babes contribute loudly to the joyful music.

A timely addition to the CAROLERS line, these pieces will be available for Christmas 1988.



ONE OF A KIND

By now you must have discovered that it is virtually impossible to find an exact duplicate of a CAROLER (other than those that are purposely duplicated, such as the Santas, characters from our *A Christmas Carol* Series or other specialty pieces). Joyce continuously searches for new fabrics in different patterns and colors, and designs a different outfit for about every one hundred CAROLERS made. But variations occur even within those one hundred, because each figurine is hand-crafted from head to toe, with the faces individually hand-molded and painted.

So you can say that your collection is truly "one of a kind"!

BYERS' CHOICE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

It is the hope of Bob and Joyce Byers that, in addition to turning out a quality product, they can help both their employees and their community. Thus, Bob and Joyce are involved in a great number of projects to help others, many of which are suggested by their own employees.

To oversee the distribution of donations, the Byers' Foundation was established in 1986. This organization receives a percentage of the Byers' Choice profits each year to distribute to worthy causes. These include everything from supporting local museums and scholarships, to starting programs to clean up neighborhoods and to help the homeless. When a fire devastated a nearby town this summer destroying two fire engines and the downtown business district, the Foundation quickly sent a \$10,000 check to help the community rebuild.

This service record was recognized by the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce last spring when they bestowed the Outstanding Business Achievement Award upon Byers' Choice Ltd. New projects and ideas are always under consideration. Currently, the Foundation is a major contributor to the James A. Michener Arts Center which will centralize a sizeable art collection in Bucks County, and is also exploring the possibility of beginning a holiday fund to help the needy in the area.

At Byers' Choice, we recognize that our success would not be possible without the help of others; therefore, we will continue to help those less fortunate than ourselves as well as try to make life a little more enjoyable for others.



CAROLER CHRONOLOGY

We are pleased to present this complete, up-to-date listing of Byers' Choice Caroler Figurines. It is our hope that you are able to find answers to many of your questions in this chronological listing of Carolers and the year or years that they have been produced.

Figurine	Years Produced
Traditional Adult Carolers	1978-Present
Santa (velvet)	1978-Present
Old World Santa	1978-1986
Traditional Children Carolers	1979-Present

(continued on next page)



(continued from front page)

Figurine	Years Produced
Icabod	1982
Conductor	1982-Present
Drummer Boy	1982-Present
Display Drummer Boy	1982-1983, 1985-1986
Choir Children	1982-1986
Valentine Children	1982-1983
Easter Children	1982-1983
Santa in Sleigh (1st version)	1982-1983
Victorian Adult Carolers (1st version)	1982
Victorian Children Carolers (1st version)	1982
Display Santa	1982-1983
Leprechauns	1982
Victorian Adult Carolers (2nd version)	1983-Present
Victorian Children Carolers (2nd version)	1983-Present
Working Santa	1983-Present
Violin Player Man	1983-1984
Scrooge (1st edition)	1983
Boy on Rocking Horse	1983
Display Carolers	1983
Santa in Sleigh (2nd version)	1984-1985
Chimney Sweep	1984
Mrs. Cratchit (1st edition)	1984
Mrs. Santa Claus	1984 -Present
Display Working Santa	1984-1985
Scrooge (2nd edition)	1984-Present
Horn Player	1985
Mrs. Cratchit (2nd edition)	1985-Present
Mrs. Fezziwig (1st edition)	1985
Mr. Fezziwig (1st edition)	1985
Pajama Kids	1985-Present
Display Old World Santa	1985
Display Children	1985-1987
Mrs. Fezziwig (2nd edition)	1986-Present
Mr. Fezziwig (2nd edition)	1986-Present
Traditional Grandparent Carolers	1986-Present
Victorian Girl with Violin	1986
Marley's Ghost (1st edition)	1986
Mrs. Claus on Rocker	1986
Victorian Santa	1986-Present
Singing Dogs	1986-Present
Display Adults	1986-1987
Marley's Ghost (2nd edition)	1987-Present
Spirit of Christmas Past (1st edition)	1987
Velvet Mrs. Claus	1987-Present
Angels	1987-Present
Black Angel	1987
Boy on Sled	1987
Caroler with Lamp	1987
Spirit of Christmas Past (2nd edition)	1988
Victorian Grandparent Carolers	1988
Spirit of Christmas Present (1st edition)	1988
Saint Nicholas	1988
Knecht Ruprecht	1988
Shepherds	1988
Children with Skates	1988
Singing Cats	1988

Figurine	Years Produced
Mothers' Day (Son)	1988
Mothers' Day (Daughter)	1988
Traditional Mother Caroler holding Baby	1988

KAREN LENTO GAZARIAN, AVID COLLECTOR

Just two short years ago Karen Lento Gazarian, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, discovered Byers' Choice CAROLER figurines and things haven't been the same since. Karen has assembled a remarkable collection of more than one hundred CAROLERS and that number is growing steadily. She wants to complete a collection as she can get, and has examples of adults, children, grandparents, Victorian CAROLERS, and all the special-edition pieces it has been possible to track down. Of course, first editions of the Dickens' A Christmas Carol series and the children's Christmas pageant series are a notable part. Because Karen had not yet discovered the CAROLER figurines in the early years of the Dickens series, she has had to diligently search for first-edition pieces. She was able to make an even trade of her first-edition Mrs. Cratchit for another collector's first-edition Scrooge. The other collector had two copies of Scrooge, so that trading him away wasn't so painful. Now Karen buys two copies of pieces for her collection in preparation for the day when she may be able to trade one for a CAROLER figurine that she needs. Nine large display pieces that Karen has located in out of the way places round out her impressive collection.

Why does she collect Byers' Choice CAROLER figurines? Karen says, "I find them fascinating and charming, especially their faces." She has, quite simply, fallen in love with them. "While in college I made large figures similar to the CAROLERS, so I appreciate the time, work, and talent that goes into the creation of each one." Karen also expects the collection to grow in value, probably a realistic expectation since some pieces made a few years ago have fetched many times their original price. That the CAROLER figurines are made in the U.S.A. is also a plus.

What does an ardent collector like Karen do with all those singing friends? She and her husband are remodeling their house, and the plans include floor to ceiling glass shelves in the living room so that the CAROLERS can be displayed year round.

The search for pieces to add to her collection never stops: "I am *always* on the lookout," Karen emphasizes. She is always asking questions of store owners and other collectors about dates that pieces were made and clothes they wore. She keeps notes. Karen and many collectors depend on the "grapevine" to know where to find those elusive treasures. When she came across a CAROLER figurine she knew a collector friend of hers needed, Karen bought it for her. There is a real understanding among the people who love Byers' Choice CAROLER figurines.

Karen is brimming over with ideas for collectors and has been very helpful to us by sharing her thoughts with us. Her enthusiastic personality and positive passion for our product is an inspiration to us. We are proud to count Karen Gazarian as a collector of the Byers' Choice CAROLERS.



COLLECTORS' CORNER

In this column we will help you get in touch with other collectors and answer your questions. Byers' Choice Ltd. will not get involved nor be in any way responsible for any of the transactions which may occur due to information supplied to this column.

I am collecting Byers' Choice "Scrooge" characters. I have all first editions except Scrooge and Mrs. Cratchit. Can you please help me in locating them?

Mrs. T. Young

Mauricetown, N.J. 08329

With much effort and travelling to many places in New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts, I have filled in my collection of first editions except for Scrooge and Mrs. Cratchit. Anyone with first editions of these two characters, willing to sell or trade for other first editions, write:

D. Bachelder

Athol, MA 01331

This collector is searching for an original Horn Player and a Chimney Sweep. If you can help in locating these items, please contact:

Cindy Lusher

Newburyport, MA 01950

I'm very interested in buying a 1st edition Byers' Choice Christmas Caroler of "Scrooge". Could you please help me in finding one?

Gail Gehm

Southampton, MA 01073

I am looking for the "Boy on Sled with Tree" which was a 1987 special edition.

Janaan Elliott

Sycamore, IL 60178

Wanted: By lover of the Carolers, first edition of Scrooge and/or Mrs. Cratchit. Please contact:

Pamela Bradbury

Walnut Creek, CA 94598



Q: The CAROLERS are a favorite in our home during the holidays. Last year our new puppy showed his appreciation of Marley's Ghost by chewing him up. Is there any way I can have him restored to his original condition?

S.S.

Westfield, NJ

A: We have a Repair Department who can remedy situations like yours. Serious conditions such as cracks in the face or base and torn clothing should be repaired here in our workshop. Relatively minor problems such as superficial chips in the face or base, loosened clothing or missing accessories can be easily repaired at home following our directions.

Your best bet is to contact Jan Johanson or Debbie Brink, here at Byers' Choice, preferably in writing, and describe the condition your CAROLER is in. Jan or Debbie will be able to determine the best repair method and will be glad to give you the necessary directions to heal Marley's Ghost yourself or prescribe a few days vacation here at our workshop to get him back into shape.

Q: I plan to vacation in Pennsylvania this fall and am wondering if it would be possible to stop by and tour the Byer's Choice factory.

R.E.

Charlotte, NC

A: As much as we enjoy meeting our collectors and showing our workshop, we feel that the distraction to our artists and workers does not have a positive effect on production of the CAROLERS. Careful planning and concentration is necessary to create our figurines and meet production demands, so unfortunately it is our policy not to offer tours.

Hopefully our regular employee introductions and other featured articles in *The Caroler Chronicle* will give you a feeling for our workshop and office environment.

Editor's Note: We have received word from our Tucson, Arizona dealer that they have 1st edition Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig's.

If interested, please contact:

Paper, Paper, Paper
6760 Camino Principal
Tucson, AZ 85715





PHOTO CONTEST

This year, when you bring your CAROLERS out to enjoy the holidays with your family and friends, you could be a winner of our photo contest! You will find your CAROLERS to be naturally photogenic, so straighten their ties, smooth their hair, fluff their skirts, and snap a picture of your collection on display. Be sure to label each photo (please limit to three) with your name, address, daytime phone number and name of your favorite CAROLERS dealer, then send to:

Byers' Choice Collectors' Club
Photo Contest
P.O. Box 158
Chalfont, PA 18914

Joyce and Bob Byers, the official Contest Judges, will determine the lucky recipients of the winning prizes:

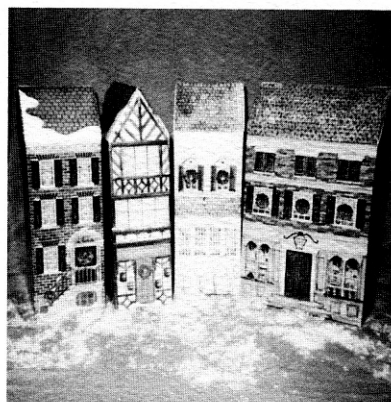
Grand Prize: A pair of CAROLERS, personally designed, handcrafted, signed and dated by Joyce.

1st Runner Up: Your selection of a pair of CAROLERS from your favorite dealer.

2nd Runner Up: Your selection of one CAROLER from your favorite dealer.

3rd Runner Up: Your selection of any one carolling dog or cat from your favorite dealer.

Entries must be postmarked no later than December 15, 1988. Unfortunately we cannot return photographs.



BYERS' CHOICE GIFT BOXES

What better way to present your gift of a CAROLER figurine than in one of our 18th century English village-design gift boxes. Unique collector's items in their own special way, our gift

boxes offer a variety of uses. Available in two sizes; the single-size boxes are a perfect fit for one CAROLER, while the double-size boxes will hold a pair of CAROLERS. In addition to gift-giving, they also provide excellent storage.

Each box is designed by Joyce Byers, or a local artist under her direction, and is produced in only one printing of a limited quantity. A box is retired after sold out, and a new one designed for the next printing. Each new box depicts a different building in the village and is created in perfect wrap-around detail, from the front door to the back porch.

Ask for them at your favorite CAROLER dealer, and look for our new toy shop haberdashery design double box available this fall.



Byers' Choice® Ltd.

P.O. Box 158, Chalfont, PA 18914
(215) 822-6700

BULK RATE
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