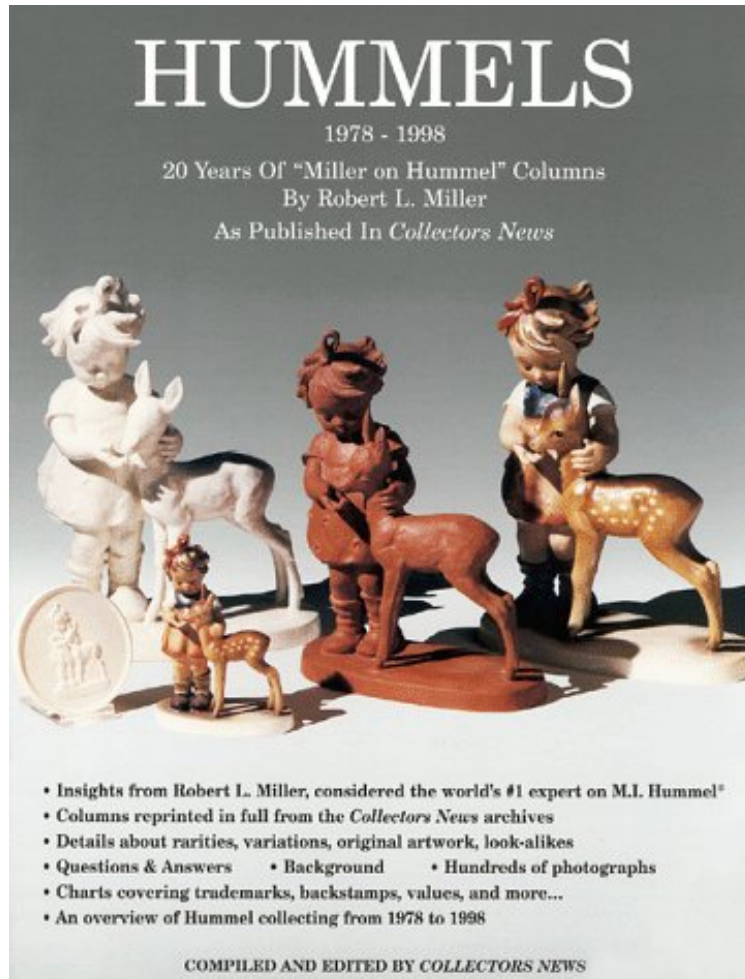


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Robert L. Miller

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Robert L. Miller : HUMMELS 1978-1998: 20 Years of "Miller On Hummel" Columns By Robert L. Miller
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised HUMMELS 1978-1998: 20 Years of "Miller On Hummel" Columns By Robert L. Miller:

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Receiving "rave reviews" from everyone who has seen it, Hummels 1978-1998 is a must for every Hummel

enthusiast! Collectors love Robert and they love the book! Robert Miller's reputation stands as the world's #1 expert on collectable M.I. Hummel items, and, for years, M.I. Hummel collectors have been asking his advice on the hobby. Now all these answers and more are available in one edition! This book a compilation of all Robert's "Miller on Hummel" columns published by Collectors News gives the reader an overview of the hobby and a look at its development during this 20-year period. You'll find exclusive information not available anywhere else. You'll gain insights and learn the details of history, rarities, variations, original artwork, look-alikes, trademarks, and values data essential to today's collector. The book includes hundreds of high-quality black white photos, most of which Miller took himself. Virtually every 8 1/2" x 11" page includes one or more photographs. And you'll find a complete alphabetical index, listing every reference made to specific figurines, to help you locate information quickly and easily. Collectors News published Hummels 1978-1998, in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Robert's column. The book is a testimony to Robert's continued enthusiasm for M.I. Hummel figurines, his devotion to educating fellow collectors, and his commitment to submitting the "Miller on Hummel" column to Collectors News all these years.

"Around here, we consider your book - the collection of Miller on Hummel articles - a big hit! As of today, we have sold out of the 160 copies we brought back from the Expo. All the comments we hear about the book are positive! We're looking forward to receiving 40 more copies" -- Dustables, Inc., 7/24/98

Articles are printed in full, with numerous illustrations. Robert L. Miller is a recognized authority on Hummels, and this book is a must-have for any serious collector." -- Antique Week 9/7/98

From the Publisher About This Book This book is published in celebration of 20 years of authoritative columns written by Robert L. Miller; and in response to the many requests over the years, made by avid collectors of M.I. Hummel items, who read Collectors News seeking Mr. Miller's expertise. Here it is a complete compilation of "Miller on Hummel" columns, written by Robert L. Miller, and published only in Collectors News. Mr. Miller introduced the hobby of collecting Hummel figurines to CN's readers in June of 1978, and his column then started in May of 1979. Despite his busy schedule, Robert found time to write about his passion and to share his knowledge. Throughout the 20-year run of his column, there have been only a handful of issues in which a submission was not included. The publication of this book has been embraced enthusiastically by Mr. Miller and would not have been possible without him. The overwhelming process of accumulating the illustrations was entirely his project. He personally reshot the majority of the photos illustrating this book; others were retrieved from his "files," and one or two were borrowed from other collectors. Only a few of the old photographs could not be obtained or reshot, in which cases scans were taken of illustrations in the original articles published by CN. Though the quality of these photos is lesser, we trust that researchers will still benefit from their inclusion. Organization: This text is arranged in chronological order. Each chapter represents a year's time, with the exception of the first chapter. The Table of Contents lists each of the columns in the order of publication. At the back of the book, an alphabetical Index helps readers find items by name and/or topic. Space for your personal notations has been left at the end of most chapters. Columns are reprinted in the order of their publication, giving the reader a look through Robert Miller's eyes, into the Hummel collecting hobby as it has developed during the past 20 years. Such a volume, providing insight into this popular hobby, has never been published prior to this work. Acknowledgements: We would like to say "Thank You" to: -- Robert Miller, for his countless contributions, both in writing the original columns faithfully for 20 years, and in all the time and effort spent on the illustrations for this book. Your energy for life and devotion to collecting have set you apart from the masses. Our prayers go with you and Ruth for many more "thrills in the hunt" and fulfilling times with friends, old and new, through your love of Hummels. -- Dean A. Genth, for writing the Foreword to this publication and giving us a glimpse of the relationship that has blossomed between father-in-law and son-in-law. May collectors benefit from your joint accomplishments for years to come. -- The Staff at Collectors News, for your commitment to this task. To Deb Ringena and Jean Janssen for encouraging us not only to publish this book, but to include every article submitted by Robert Miller over the years. To Jean Janssen for locating, copying, and organizing the columns from back issues of CN and for scanning photographs. To Rilla Jo Pabst for OCI scanning the text and for scanning photographs. To Dave Souhrada and Ronda Jans for taking on extra duties while others were working on this book. You're a great team! Now, to all who open the pages of this book, "Happy Hummel-ing!" Cherie Souhrada, Publisher; and Linda Kruger, Editor

From the Author Preface The Editor of Collectors News has asked that I write a few words as a preface to this publication. I welcome this opportunity to greet the many fine collectors that Ruth and I have met during the past twenty years of writing this column and to say "Thank You" for your friendship, questions, comments, and suggestions. Without YOU there would not have been a column. Many of you have heard my story of how this all came about. I have been a retail grocer all my life, and occasionally still help my son, Timothy, who now owns the family business, when he needs a little help. Actually, my wife Ruth started our collection as a hobby over thirty years ago. I used to remind her that I worked too hard selling groceries, for her to spend \$4.00 or \$5.00 on a little hunk of clay and some paint it just did not seem right to me! But then she reminded me that I had one bad habit that of smoking cigars! She convinced me that it was only fair that she should be allowed to spend the same amount of money on her collection of "Hummels" as I spent on cigars. After all, my money went up in smoke, while she still had her figurines! You can see who the smart one is in our family! What could I say!

Eventually, I, too, became fascinated with her hobby, and we started collecting together. I even found myself spending not \$4.00 or \$5.00, but oftentimes \$4,000.00 or \$5,000.00 on a figurine that I wanted! At this point, she said it was no longer her collection, but mine! Of course, I rationalized, that the more rare figurines and the more knowledge I acquired, the better our books sold, and the more people would read my articles! Today, I still smoke my cigars (maybe a little better quality now), and Ruth and I still have our collection. I also find myself referring to back issues of these "Miller on Hummel" articles to refresh my memory on just what I said about Hummel collecting over this long expanse of time. You, the collector, and I have learned together as we shared information through this medium of the press. After twenty years, most of the information in the columns is still accurate and current. But remember that things do change, and we learn as we go along. As you read the articles published here, you may find a few things which were correct at one point in time, that are no longer 100% correct today. If so, our address and phone numbers are included below, so you can continue to contact us with your questions or comments. It has truly been fun writing these monthly articles, books, etc. visiting, corresponding, and speaking with many of you these past twenty years. Ruth and I look forward to many more years of fun and fellowship with each of you! Sincerely, Robert L. Miller